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Chervov Denies USSR To Deploy Bombers

LD070958 Moscow TASS in English 0931 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 7 TASS—Soviet Colonel-General Nikolay Chervov has described a NATO general's remarks that the Soviet Union is going to deploy some of its bombers in Europe to offset the loss of nuclear missiles under the Soviet-American INF Treaty as "malicious disinformation and irresponsible claims."

Chervov, head of a directorate in the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces, commented on the assertions made by Hans-Henning von Sandraft and transmitted by the ASSOCIATED PRESS.

"This downright hoax pursues obviously provocative objectives—to delude world public opinion and thus make it easier for NATO to carry out its own plans," Gen. Chervov told a TASS diplomatic correspondent.

"Such irresponsible claims can cause nothing but indignation as they do not correspond to reality and hinder the process of nuclear-missile disarmament."

U.S., French Chemical Weapons Stance Condemned

LD061609 Moscow TASS in English 1550 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 6 TASS—Military news analyst Vladimir Chernyshev writes:

In their joint statement the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and the Board of the Social Democratic Party of Germany urged the governments of the GDR, Czechoslovakia and the FRG to start talks without delay on the withdrawal of chemical weapons or, accordingly, preventing their deployment on the territory of their states. It is also envisaged to invite to the participation in this process those states whose armed forces are stationed on their territory. A zone free of chemical weapons could be created in Central Europe already in the near future if this proposal was implemented.

In the interests of destroying chemical weapons in the whole world all other states in Europe should study the possibility of their participation in this initiative, the joint statement says. Thereby they would acquire the right to control the zone free of chemical weapons.

The Soviet Union fully supports the proposals of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and the Social Democratic Party of Germany to create in the centre of Europe a zone free of chemical weapons. As it was noted by Mikhail Gorbachev in his conversation with Willy Brandt, such a step, important by itself, could speed up advance towards the ultimate goal—the total prohibition of chemical weapons.

Unfortunately, to this day the multilateral talks in Geneva have failed to conclude a convention on the prohibition and liquidation of chemical weapons. There is a slow-down there and a "contribution" to the erection of barriers was made first of all by the United States and France. Thus, the United States announced recently the commencement of the full-scale production of binary munitions. Not to mention the militaristic essence of this programme, it clearly has a negative impact on the situation in Geneva. It is also noteworthy that the contracts signed by the Pentagon with the leading American companies span a long period of time. Can this be evidence of the U.S. Administration's desire to conclude shortly a convention on chemical weapons? The answer is clear to all.

Yet another aspect. The U.S. binary programme is being developed in cooperation with Britain, the FRG, Australia and France. Moreover, it was the consent of the allies that determined the allocation of money for the programme by the American Congress. That is why they also bear responsibility for the launching of a new spiral in the chemical arms race, for the drastic slow-down in Geneva.

The "special" position taken by Paris also considerably worsens the prospects of the drafting of the convention. France insists that after the signing of the convention and its entry into force it should have the right to have a certain "reserve of security", in other words to buildup and modernise its chemical potential.

All this shows that in the obtaining conditions it would be very good to create a zone in Europe free of chemical weapons by the efforts of several countries. There is no doubt that such a zone would help accumulate experience for a worldwide ban on chemical weapons. Time should not be lost. Advance towards chemical disarmament and ensuring the security of European peoples should be started without delay.

Soviet, U.S. Scientists Leave for Nevada

LD062037 Moscow TASS in English 1922 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Washington April 6 TASS—TASS correspondent Andrey Fedyashin reports:

A large group of Soviet and American scientists left Washington for Nevada today for conducting the first joint experiment on U.S. territory in the sphere of ensuring high quality control over the capacity of nuclear explosion.

Its main purpose is to prove that Soviet and American scientists have today at their disposal effective seismic methods and facilities for measuring the capacity of nuclear explosions, even the smallest ones. Similar experiments were successfully conducted last year in Kazakhstan, near the city of Semipalatinsk. They are

organized in accordance with agreements signed in May 1986 and June 1987 by the U.S. National Council for Environmental Protection and the USSR Academy of Sciences.

In the course of the current experiment held in two areas of Nevada where an underground nuclear test site of the U.S. Department of Energy is situated an ordinary underground nuclear explosion with a capacity of 10 tons of trinitrotoluene will (?be staged) on April 29, and another one, with a capacity of 15 tons, will be staged on April 30. The nuclear devices will be blown up at a depth of some 50 m. Soviet and American seismographs placed at different distances from the epicentres of the explosions will register the strength of seismic signals and determine the capacity of the explosions.

Dr. Thomas Cochran, head of the project representing the U.S. side, said at a press conference that seismic sensors and other instruments due to be used during the experiment were unique. No other instruments in the world can compare with them by their sensitivity. Dr.Cochran pointed out that the project was actually an extremely important series of experiments for collecting scientific data. The explosions will be used for the study of the spreading of seismic waves in the area of the Nevada test site, for their comparative analysis with the data collected by American scientists in the Soviet Union and for comparing the readings of Soviet and American instruments. American scientists believe that the experiment will furnish more proof of a possibility of verification and control within the framework of a treaty on a universal nuclear test ban, he said in conclusion.

Petrovskiy Comments on UN Disarmament Session
LD062331 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 6 Apr 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] A news conference was held in Moscow today devoted to the special session of the UN General Assembly on disarmament, scheduled to open on 31 May. It was announced that the USSR delegation, led by Comrade Shevardnadze, has been confirmed. Comrade Petrovskiy, USSR deputy minister of foreign affairs and deputy chief of the delegation, commented on the importance of the forthcoming forum, saying:

[Begin Petrovskiy recording] The Soviet Union is fully determined to do everything within its power to ensure that the bilateral and multilateral processes of disarmament should mutually complement and supplement one another. In order for these disarmament processes to be equally constructive, it is necessary for new political thinking to take the place of the obsolete stereotypes, and for confrontation to give way to accord, for exchange of caustic propaganda remarks to give way to informative dialogue, double standards to identical yardsticks in respect to both oneself and one's partners, and claims to have mastery of truth to a common quest for generally acceptable solutions on the basis of a balance of interests of all sides.

The Soviet Union is going to the session together with the other Warsaw Pact states, whose common platform has just been formulated on this issue at the session of the Foreign Ministers Committee in Sofia. [end recording]

Replying to a question on the possibility of concluding a Soviet-U.S. treaty on a 50-percent cut in strategic offensive weapons, Comrade Petrovskiy stressed that the USSR considers it possible for the treaty to be ready for signing during the forthcoming summit meeting in Moscow. The USSR is of the opinion that the conclusion of this treaty is linked with a condition relating to nonmilitarization of space. It is possible to go for a 50-percent cut in strategic offensive weapons only if one is confident that strategic stability will be maintained.

Petrovskiy Meets UN Official Strong in Moscow
LD062216 Moscow TASS in English 1932 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 6 TASS—Vladimir Petrovskiy, deputy minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, had a conversation today with M. Strong, president of the World Federation of U.N. Associations staying here at the invitation of the Soviet U.N. Association.

During the conversation they discussed topical problems of present-day international relations and the enhancing of the role of the public in the U.N. work for the purpose of ensuring reliable security for all.

NATO Interest in Warsaw Pact Proposals 'Keen'
LD062259 Moscow TASS in English 1429 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Brussels April 6 TASS—The NATO headquarters has expressed a very keen interest in the new proposals of the Warsaw Treaty member countries aimed at boosting the disrmament process, consolidating security and East-West cooperation in all the spheres.

The bulletin LES NOUVELLES ATLANTIQUES reported today that a NATO spokesman had stated that NATO was ready to examine with much interest all the measures aimed at improving relations and opening up prospects of a dialogue on all the questions connected with the interests of NATO and the Warsaw Treaty.

The proposals of the socialist countries were formulated at a regular session of the Committee of Foreign Ministers of the Warsaw Treaty member states held in Sofia on March 29-30.

United States & Canada

Demichev Receives U.S. Senators in Kremlin

Security Issues Discussed

LD061149 Moscow TASS in English 1137 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 6 TASS—Petr Demichev, an alternate member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and first vice-president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet (Parliament) of the USSR, had a meeting in the Krelin today with a visiting delegation from the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The meeting focused on the responsibility placed by the nuclear and space age on the Soviet Union and the United States for world security.

It was a substantive exchange of opinions of a wide range of problems of mutual interest.

"We are convinced that war as such should be excluded from the life of humanity," Petr Demichev said.

"The Soviet Union is for constructive dialogue with the United States and for stronger trust between the two countries, is doing all it can for this, and is prepared for the most radical steps in eliminating nuclear arms and bringing about disarmament," he continued.

"Contacts between the parliamentarians of the two countries can do much towards achieving comprehensive peace through abolishing nuclear arsenals, settling regional conflicts and affirming new political thinking," Demichev said.

He called the American senators' attention to the need for the INF treaty to be ratified as soon as possible. He stressed that it is now essential to make decisive efforts to conclude the drafting of a Soviet-U.S. treaty on 50-percent cuts in strategic offensive arms.

The overseas visitors in this connection expressed themselves in favor of the INF treaty being ratified by the Senate and voiced the hope for further bilateral arms control and disarmament agreements to follow.

The senators shared with Demichev their impressions from the visit to this country and expressed gratitude for the hospitality accorded to the delegation.

Chervov Participates

LD061505 Moscow TASS in English 1419 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 6 TASS—"The speediest ratification and entry into force of the INF treaty would be in the interests of the USSR and the United States, and of other countries of the world," Petr Demichev, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, first vice president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, stated here today. He received in the Kremlin a delegation of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources headed by its chairman Senator Bennett Johnston.

"The Soviet Union wants mankind to be spared of the nuclear threat and is prepared for the most radical steps in the field of eliminating nuclear weapons", Petr Demichev said. "It is necessary now to make resolute efforts to complete the drafting of the Soviet-American treaty on the 50 per cent reduction of strategic offensive arms in conditions of observance of the ABM Treaty in the form in which it was signed in 1972 and non-withdrawal from it within an agreed-upon period of time. Given mutual desire, such a treaty could be prepared for signing during President Ronald Reagan's visit to Moscow".

During the discussion that followed Senator Johnston raised the question of the need to reduce conventional armaments in Europe and contended that the Soviet Union has a considerable superiority in such armaments. Replying to the American senator, Lieutenant General Nikolay Chervov, head of a directorate at the USSR General Staff, said that indeed the Warsaw Treaty countries have more tanks and do not conceal that. But NATO has a considerable superiority in tactical aviation and combat helicopters. The Soviet side has repeatedly proposed to exchange data covering the Warsaw Treaty and NATO as a whole and each individual country, and to formally announce them. It was also proposed that both sides should announce their knowledge about the armed forces of the other side. Thereby it would be possible to have a picture of what disbalances exist. But we were surprised when the United States gave a negative answer to this, General Chervov said.

Touching further on the remarks by several senators that the conventional armaments of the Warsaw Treaty have supposedly an "offensive potential" that similar NATO forces do not have, General Chervov said that this is very debatable. That is why the Warsaw Treaty countries propose a radical reduction of conventional armaments by both sides so that they could fulfill only defensive functions and could not carry out offensive actions.

Vice President of the USSR Academy of Sciences Yevgeniy Velikhov, who is chairman of the Energy Commission of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet, drew attention to the big possibilities of modern science in working out effective measures of monitoring and verifying the process of disarmament. The Soviet-American experiment in Semipalatinsk, he said, showed, for instance, that an explosion with a yield of 10 tons can be registered at a distance of 1,000 kilometres. The Soviet Union proposes such a joint experiment to detect nuclear warheads on board naval ships. Academician Velikhov also said ways of checking space payloads should be worked out in order to keep weapons out of outer space.

The head of the American delegation Senator Bennett Johnston described the discussion as very frank and useful. He stressed that the positive results achieved lately in relations between the United States and the USSR created a sound basis for further developing them.

Further on USIA 'Misinformation' About Arms

LD061141 Moscow TASS in English 1122 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 6 TASS—Follows commentary by Vladimir Matyash, a TASS political news analyst:

Totally unfounded charges against the USSR of its alleged complicity in a misinformation campaign spearheaded against the USA are again ringing out on the banks of the Potomac from the prompting of the U.S. State Department, the Pentagon, the CIA and other government departments. The latest sample of such groundless claims is, as follows from the Voice of America programs, dispatches of news agencies, the report on that hackneyed subject sent by the U.S. Information Agency (USIA) to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Sane Americans in common with us realise well that to live in peace it is necessary to create an atmosphere of mutual trust, give up the practices of using "the enemy image" in picturing the opposite side. If the governments do not display the wish to do so, nothing will come even out of most sincere intentions.

And now follow several specific examples of Washington's anti-Soviet propaganda actions.

In recent years President Reagan has sent to Congress already five reports charging the USSR with violation of practically all agreements in the field of arms control. All of his charges without exception are based on such so to speak arguments as "perhaps", "possibly" and "potentially possible." It is admitted in a number of cases that there is "no proof", insufficient evidence to evaluate in full the "meeting of commitments by the Soviets."

The USA is trying to introduce new norms of relations between states. Since it cannot be considered normal when a great power accuses in public another great power on the basis of hypotheses, which, as it itself admits, are in need of verification. [sentence as received]

Charges are made of the alleged instances of violation of the ABM Treaty by the Soviet Union. Thus, in particular, passions have flared up around the construction of a radar station near Krasnoyarsk. Albeit a specially invited competent U.S. commission has concluded that the construction of the radar station is no violation of the ABM Treaty, nevertheless the NBC television company has made a provocative statement. The Russian may have ulterior motives, the NBC said, without bothering to furnish any arguments, which is explicable since such arguments are non-existent.

Quite recently, at the NATO Council session in Brussels early in March, the heads of state and government of the alliance complained in public that the military potential and actions of the Warsaw Treaty are, as before, shrouded in a veil of secrecy. But these are unfounded statements. As the events of recent days have demonstrated serious obstacles in the way of a settlement of the questions of a cut in the armed forces and conventional weapons in Europe arise exactly because the USA does not wish to participate in the bilateral act of openness—exchange of information on the armed forces of the two military alliances. In that sense the implementation of the Soviet proposals would be the first important step towards eliminating disbalances and asymmetry in the armed forces of the military political alliances confronting one another in Europe.

The world press has noted the fact that since the start of the debate in U.S. Congress on the INF treaty, Philip Taubman, head of THE NEW YORK TIMES bureau in Moscow, quoted anonymous sources in spreading the false information that the Soviet Union was withdrawing its objections against the U.S. developments in the field of SDI, allowing a testing of its components in outer space. This obvious misinformation specially timed to an important event has been reflected in speeches by senators who were deliberately misled.

And at last, but not at least, the freedom of information is a norm of life in the USSR. Yet Soviet public most resolutely objects against "information" which sows misunderstanding, fosters the ideas of militarism and the cult of force. It is absolutely obvious that the Soviet Union's stand fully accords with the principles of human ethics.

Talks Held With Canadian Foreign Ministry

LD070911 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1729 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Ottawa, 6 Apr (TASS)—Soviet-Canadian consultations have been held here on foreign policy planning issues and the main international situation issues.

The group of representatives of Canada's Ministry of External Affairs was headed by J. Higginbotham, head of the directorate for drawing up foreign policy [name and title as received], and the group of representatives of the USSR Foreign Ministry by L.I. Mendelevich, member of the collegium and head of the directorate for assessments and planning.

During the consultations there was a useful exchange of views on matters connected with the prospects for the development of international events, particularly in the sphere of disarmament, international security, international economic relations, and regional problems.

L.I. Mendelevich had meetings and conversations with J. Taylor and J. Stanford, Canadian under secretaries of state for external affairs.

A.A. Rodionov, the USSR's ambassador to Canada, took part in the consultations and conversations.

China

National People's Congress Session Reported

LD062307 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0830 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] In Beijing the session of the Chinese National People's Congress [NPC] is taking place. Our special correspondent, Vladimir Kulikov, reports:

[Kulikov] The NPC session, I believe, may be considered with every reason a session of reforms. It has laid a legal foundation for many of the deep changes brought about by the congress in the economic, political, and social life of China. It has invested many of the ideas advanced at the congress with an organizational form. By way of example, the idea of delineation between the right of ownership and the right to run an economy formed the basis of the law on state industrial enterprises. The appeal for the need to reform the political system was reflected in practice in the reform of the state apparatus. But it would probably be incorrect to imagine that the session is some kind of mechanism establishing the successes achieved and vesting them with the corresponding state documents. The session is a struggle of opinions, views, and positions. In many of the delegates' speeches that I happened to hear there were scathing words regarding bureaucracy, that genuinely ineradicable evil of modern Chinese society. It became clear where there were similar approaches to many questions of the country's economic and social life.

Almost 500 proposals—a record figure in the history of all NPC sessions—were submitted to the secretariat. They concerned judicial, financial, and economic issues, the problems of science and culture, and the health service. The deputies focused their attention on burning issues. One of these is price hikes. A well-known Chinese economist, a deputy from the province of Henan, (Ai In-in), proposed his version of the price reform. Taking a period of 12 years, it should, in his opinion, consist of three stages: the regulation of prices, primarily food, then the regulation of prices on a more extensive scale, and finally the introduction of free prices which the state will only influence indirectly. One of the oldest deputies, a member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Cheng Zihug, selected as a subject for criticism the deterioration in social mores in society: corruption, bribe-taking, and economic crimes.

The amendments to the PRC Constitution proposed at the session are the establishment by organizational measures of many of the proposals advanced at the session of Chinese Communists.

Wu Xueqian on Disarmament, Afghanistan

LD062222 Moscow TASS in English 1927 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Beijing March 6 TASS—The deputies of the first session of China's National People's Congress (NPC) of the seventh convocation got down today to a detailed discussion in groups of the session's draft resolutions on the report on the government's work, on re-organizing the work of the State Council staff and other documents.

The Chinese press sums up the preliminary results of the discussion by deputies of the draft law of the People's Republic of China (PRC) on the state industrial plant, which, as the newspaper RENMIN RIBAO stresses, generalizes the positive experience of the economic reform. The session's presidium submitted to the deputies' consideration a draft list of candidates to senior state and government posts.

Aside from the debates under way within the framework of China's supreme body of state authority, the attention of Chinese and foreign journalists accredited at the session was riveted in recent days on several press conferences. Deputies from the Tibetan autonomous region of the Chinese People's Republic informed the journalists in detail about the situation in Tibet, the unrest that erupted there and was provoked from the overseas. They noted that Tibetans could attain prosperity only in the large family of all of the country's nationalities.

"The destabilization of the situation was in conflict with the vital interests of the Tibetan population", said Ngapoi Ngagwang Jigme, vice-chairman of the NPC Standing Committee. "The Tibetan people themselves ultimately become the true victim of the unrest", he said.

Wu Xueqian, member of the Political Bureau of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) Central Committee, foreign minister of the PRC, and Qian Qichen, deputy foreign minister, spoke to newsmen today. At the press conference they noted that China did not enter into alliances and did not establish strategic relations with either great power.

China welcomes the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on Eliminating Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles, said Wu Xueqian. He expressed the hope that the USSR and the United States would reach an accord on slashing by 50 percent strategic offensive armaments. However, the attainment of this accord is not equivalent to a drastic reduction in the nuclear armaments of the Soviet Union and the United States which possess the overwhelming quantity of nuclear weapons in the world, he said.

China holds that they bear special responsibility in this respect and should be the first to reduce their nuclear armaments. These great nuclear powers should stop the development, testing, production and deployment of all types of nuclear weapons, and put an end to the arms

race. Provided these conditions are met, China is ready to take part in an authoritative international conference on further nuclear disarmament.

Responding to a question on China's attitude to new elements in the settlement of the Afghan problem, the minister drew attention to Mikhail Gorbachev's statement on Afghanistan. He voiced the hope that following the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, a coalition government would be formed there and Afghanistan will be a non-aligned state.

On Chinese-U.S. relations, Wu Xueqian noted that definite progress was attained in that field during his recent visit to the United States, which helped diffuse a bad atmosphere that had existed in relations between the two countries since the latter half of last year.

Dialogue on Improving Sino-Soviet Relations
OW070333 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1500 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Mulatov essay from the "International Issues" program]

[Text] The conservative groups of certain countries in the West and Southeast Asia are noticeably dissatisfied with the continuing improvement in Soviet-Chinese relations. They insist that, along with the improvement in these relations is a growing communist threat in Southeast Asia. This is a calumny. Now please stay tuned for an essay by Mulatov, an observer at this station, entitled: "The Dusty Archives." I shall read the author's monologue, and announcer Fang Zheng will play the representative of the conservatives who have again brought out the scarecrow—a communist threat.

[Mulatov] What did you say, Mr Conservative?

[Conservative] I said nobody will benefit from the normalization of Soviet-Chinese relations.

[Mulatov] Why?

[Conservative] Why? Why? Because Beijing and Moscow only consider themselves. They only consider their socialism. They only consider the normalization of their relations at the expense of our interests.

[Mulatov] I don't understand what you mean. Can you explain, Mr Conservative?

[Conservative] Don't you know the analysis done by Dr Lloyd of the London Center of Communist Studies?

[Mulatov] Of course I don't.

[Conservative] I read in a newspaper in Bangkok that this Mr Lloyd has warned that, as long as Beijing-Moscow relations are completely normalized, they can reach an agreement on the Cambodian issue.

[Mulatov] What's wrong with that?

[Conservative] Don't you really understand that, once they can do this, their socialism will be able to develop steadily throughout Indochina? That is to say, Southeast Asia as a whole will face another communist threat as in the past when the USSR and China worked in unity and were on friendly terms. Even the United States, its allies, and Japan will suffer from the normalization of Soviet-Chinese relations.

[Mulatov] Now, just a minute! I think you have become too emotional.

[Conservative] Don't you remember that Dulles warned of the danger of the establishment of a communist dictatorship throughout Southeast Asia?

[Mulatov] Was he the U.S. Secretary of State who concocted SEATO, the anti-China clique?

[Conservative] That's him. Apart from SEATO, he also set up U.S. military bases to encircle China. He said that China would carry out communist expansion throughout Asia.

[Mulatov] Now, listen to me! Archives like this have long been covered with a thick layer of dust. Because of its uselessness, SEATO has been dissolved!

[Conservative] However, if the West did not stop communist expansion and did not eradicate socialism, countries in Southeast Asia would have fallen into the embrace of communists one after another!

[Mulatov] This is nothing but Dulles' domino theory which he dished out at a time when the United States wanted to build South Vietnam into an anti-communist fortress. It has been proved that, after Vietnam's unification, no country has fallen like a domino. Yesterday and today, China, the USSR, and Vietnam haven't any expansion scheme whatsoever in Southeast Asia and other Asian-Pacific regions.

[Conservative] Dr Lloyd of the London Center of Communist Studies has served a forthright warning that the current normalization of Soviet-Chinese relations threatens the security of the West and ASEAN countries.

[Mulatov] Why don't you (?use your head) and think about the historical lesson? For example, the concerted action of the USSR and China in 1954 thwarted the success of the Geneva Conference on Indochina. Under the present circumstances, the USSR and China are both against any form of aggression and expansion. They both support political settlement of all conflicts and strictly abide by the principles for peaceful coexistence.

[Conservative] This is true, all right. But Sino-Soviet cooperation in international affairs always frightens people.

[Mulatov] Just whom has been frightened?

[Conservative] Conservatives and anti-communist elements like myself.

[Mulatov] I think you should expose yourselves more to the fresh air of new political thinking instead of eating the anti-communist dust in the archives.

Southeast Asia & Pacific

SRV's Dinh Nho Liem, Soviet Envoy on Spratlys

OW061453 Moscow in Mandarin to Southeast Asia 1200 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Vietnam's First Vice Foreign Minister Dinh Nho Liem received Soviet Ambassador to Vietnam Kachin. He mentioned Vietnam's recent proposal on eliminating differences between Vietnam and China on the Truong Sa Archipelago [Changsha Qundao]. An SRV Foreign Ministry note on 17 March mentioned this point. It also proposed the nonuse of force prior to holding talks. Ambassador Kachin stated that the Soviet Union completely supports Vietnam's just stand and its goodwill to resolve all border disputes with China. As everyone knows, armed conflicts occurred between China and Vietnam in the Truong Sa [Spratly] Archipelago area on 14 March.

Kujin on Soviet Position

OW061617 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1400 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Kujin commentary]

[Text] Vietnam's Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach has once again proposed that Vietnam and China hold negotiations concerning border clashes in the East China Sea [as heard] waters southeast of Vietnam. In an interview with AFP, Nguyen Co Thach said: Border disputes should be settled through peaceful means. In this regard, our station observer Kujin writes:

The Nansha [Spratly] Islands are of strategic importance, and petroleum resources reportedly abound there. For years the islands have been the target of disputes among some Asian countries. The geographical location and situation surrounding the islands involve the interests of many countries. This is why when Chinese and Vietnamese warships clashed in the waters near the islands, newspapers in ASEAN nations immediately reacted with typical concern for foreign intervention in the affairs of Southeast Asia.

Since the clashes have taken place—in other words, since the fire has been set—it is necessary to put it out as quickly as possible. It is precisely motivated by this desire that Hanoi has proposed to China that negotiations be held to mediate the disputes in the South China Sea. Hanoi has suggested that the two countries send representatives to discuss the time and place for negotiations, and that the two sides stop using force prior to negotiations.

China has claimed unquestionable sovereignty over the islands, and thus has refused Vietnam's proposal. Vietnam has also claimed sovereignty over the islands, and has reiterated that its proposal for peaceful negotiations still stands. It is obvious to all that the tensions must be resolved at the negotiation table so that they will not affect the security of Southeast Asia. This view is shared by other countries who have interests in the islands. For example, the Philippine Government on 27 March expressed hope for peaceful negotiations on the Nansha Islands dispute.

The Soviet Union has taken a principled stand on existing problems, maintaining that disputes between states should be resolved through peaceful means. The Soviet people cherish friendly feelings for both the Vietnamese and Chinese people. The Soviet Union believes that an early settlement of the conflict through negotiations will be conducive to the cause of peace in Southeast Asia and the prestige of socialism in the world.

Platt Cites Soviet Expansionism in Manila Talks

LD061711 Moscow TASS in English 1621 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Manila March 6 TASS—Ambassador Nicholas Platt, U.S. chief negotiator at the Philippine-U.S. talks to review the status of the U.S. military bases in the Philippines, that opened in Manila Tuesday, made an official statement. The U.S. diplomat made attempts to justify the moves to build up U.S. military-strategic presence in the Philippines by "Soviet expansionism" in the Asia-Pacific region, thus outlining the main direction of his delegation's efforts at the talks.

Expressing the view of the Philippine public, the national newspaper MANILA BULLETIN writes in its editorial today that the U.S. ambassador should abandon the outdated approach to the political processes occurring in the world now. The Treaty on Eliminating Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles signed in Washington recently, the new Soviet foreign policy initiatives in Asia and the positive processes that have shaped up in Soviet-U.S. relations point up that the solution to disputable issues should be looked for not on the lines of confrontation but with the aid of a constructive dialogue, the newspaper writes.

U.S. Charges Refuted

HK070711 Hong Kong AFP in English 0640 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Manila, April 7 (AFP)—A Soviet Embassy official Thursday denounced the United States for accusing Moscow of menacingly building up its military presence

in Asia. "We take this statement with profound disappointment," Aleksandr Losyukov, deputy chief of the Soviet mission, told a news conference here two days after U.S. Ambassador to Manila Nicholas Platt raised the Soviet threat. Mr. Platt issued the warning at the opening of talks with the Philippines on the future of two major U.S. military bases in the Philippines.

The Soviet diplomat said this was "but a reflection and repetition of the same confrontational cold war mentality which has been typical of U.S. foreign policy in the region since the establishment of U.S. bases." He said the Soviet threat had been persistently used to justify the continued presence of Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base, the largest overseas U.S. bases, and stressed that Washington was the dominant power in Asia. "The U.S.S.R. cannot ignore the major military formations of the U.S. in the area. The main task of our fleet is to defend our territory," he said. He said Moscow will maintain "the minimum needed level to neutralize this threat" of U.S. military might.

Rogachev Arrives in Malaysia for Talks

LD062251 Moscow TASS in English 1818 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Kuala Lumpur April 6 TASS—Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev arrived here today for political consultations.

At the airport, he was welcomed by Malaysian Deputy Foreign Minister Abdullah Fadzir Che Wan and other officials.

The consultations will cover topical international problems, matters connected with the strengthening of peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region, the situation in South East Asia, and the further development of relations between the two countries.

During the visit, the Soviet deputy minister will meet with Malaysian Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Omar and make a trip around the country.

Heng Samrin Meets East Bloc Newspaper Groups

PM051331 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Apr 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Meeting in Phnom Penh"]

[Text] Phnom Penh, 4 Apr—Heng Samrin, general secretary of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and chairman of the PRK [People's Republic of Kampuchea] Council of State, has received party newspaper delegations from a number of socialist countries. The PRK leader informed the visitors about the republic's multifaceted achievements since the overthrow of the Pol Pot regime and the tasks which are now being tackled. He noted that the meetings between Hun Sen and Sihanouk in France, which have discussed ways of solving the Cambodian problem, are contributing to the strengthening of peace in Southeast Asia.

Heng Samrin welcomed the upcoming meeting between M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and R. Reagan, President of the United States.

The PRK leader expressed deep gratitude to the parties, governments, and the peoples of fraternal socialist countries for the support they are giving the Cambodian people.

Near East & South Asia

Gorbachev, Najibullah Meet in Tashkent

Gorbachev Departs Moscow

LD061026 Moscow TASS in English 1022 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 6 TASS—Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, left Moscow for Tashkent, capital of the Soviet Central Asian republic of Uzbekistan, today.

Shevardnadze Leaves Kabul

LD061918 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of foreign affairs, left today for his country after a working visit.

At Kabul airport he was seen off by Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the Secretariat and Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee; N.G. Yegorychev, ambassador and extraordinary representative of the USSR in Kabul; and ambassadors and charge d'affaires of the friendly countries in Kabul.

Leaders Arrive in Tashkent

LD061512 Moscow World Service in English 1500 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party Mikhail Gorbachev has arrived in Tashkent, capital of the Soviet republic of Uzbekistan, for a meeting with the Afghan President Najibullah. Meanwhile, President Najibullah has arrived in Tashkent from Kabul. He came together with the Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, who was in the Afghan capital on a working visit.

TV Shows Gorbachev Arrival

LD070757 Moscow Television service in Russian 0625 GMT 7 Apr 88

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Hello, comrades. As we have already reported, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev arrived in Tashkent on 6 April. A meeting was held today in Tashkent.

At this moment a meeting between Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, is underway. There will be reportage on this a little later. The cassette with a video recording of the start of the meeting is presently being delivered to the television center. But for the time being, here is a report on yesterday evening's events.

The general secretary arrived in Tashkent at 2050. [video shows welcoming group of officials approaching, then shots of Gorbachev descending aircraft steps followed by Raisa and others] He was met by Comrade Nishanov, first secretary of the Uzbekistan Communist Party Central Committee, other party leaders, and members of the government of the republic. [video shows Gorbachev shaking hand of (?Nishanov) and others, including Shevardnadze, whom he greets warmly] Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze arrived in Tashkent yesterday from Kabul together with President Najibullah. [passage omitted on the bread-and-salt greeting by two elderly kolkhoz workers]

A meeting was held in Tashkent today between Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan. [video shows Gorbachev meeting and speaking with Najibullah, brief shot of the flags of the USSR, the Uzbek SSR, and Afghanistan, then of Najibullah, Gorbachev, and Shevardnadze taking their seats at an oval negotiating table with their officials] During the conversation, questions of mutual interest were discussed. [video shows Gorbachev arranging papers and speaking through an interpreter]

[Begin Gorbachev recording] I think that there is a particular feature of our present meetings and conversations. Attention has to be.... [end recording]

[Announcer, interrupting] Comrade Shevardnadze took part in the meeting. [video shows Shevardnadze and Gorbachev smiling following a brief exchange of words, then shot of Najibullah]

7 Apr Meeting Reported

LD070445 Moscow TASS in English 0436 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Tashkent April 7 TASS—The meeting between Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Najibullah, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and president of the Republic of Afghanistan, took place here today.

Declaration Expected

LD070629 Moscow TASS in English 0624 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Tashkent April 7 TASS—A meeting between Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU), and President Najibullah of the Republic of Afghanistan, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), was held here today.

Mikhail Gorbachev arrived in Tashkent, the capital of the Soviet Central Asian republic of Uzbekistan, on Wednesday. Najibullah arrived in Tashkent on the same day for a meeting with Mikhail Gorbachev.

Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, arrived in Tashkent from Kabul at the same time.

As a result of the meeting, a Soviet-Afghan declaration is expected to be adopted.

Joint Soviet-Afghan Statement

PM071541 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Apr 88 Morning Edition p 1

["M.S. Gorbachev Meeting With Najibullah"—TASS report]

[Text] A meeting held here today between Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, opened a new stage in Soviet-Afghan relations. The meeting passed in a friendly and warm atmosphere. A joint statement was adopted as a result of the meeting.

Joint Soviet-Afghan Statement

A meeting between Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, was held in Tashkent on 7 April 1988. Taking part in the meeting were:

Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, and Rafik Nishanov, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan.

Mikhail Gorbachev and Najibullah exchanged views on the key moments of the international situation and studied in detail topical questions directly concerning the interests of their countries.

They noted that the policy of national reconciliation consistently pursued by the Afghan leadership and its constructive position on questions of the political settlement is the only correct line that accords with the interests of the Afghan people, all of its neighbors, and the interests of the entire international community.

The sides confirmed loyalty to the old tradition of building relations between the USSR and Afghanistan on principles of equality, mutual respect, mutual advantage, and noninterference in internal affairs.

As a result of the meeting, Mikhail Gorbachev and Najibullah arrived at a common view on the following:

First. The Soviet Union and the Republic of Afghanistan will act in accordance with the statements published on 8 February 1988. These statements imparted a new impulse to the process of the political settlement of a most complex regional conflict and made it possible to place negotiations on the plane of a practical solution.

Second. The general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and the president of Afghanistan believe that the last obstacles to concluding the agreements have now been removed thanks to constructive cooperation of all who are involved in the settlement, and favor their immediate signing.

Both sides duly assess the role of the UN secretary general and his personal representative, Diego Cordovez.

The Afghan president welcomes the readiness of the Soviet Union and the United States to act as guarantors of the Geneva Accords.

Third. The Soviet Union and Afghanistan reaffirm that in the event of the signing within the shortest period of the said agreements, the Afghanistan-USSR understanding that the Soviet troops will be withdrawn within the period fixed by these agreements, starting from 15 May 1988, will remain in force.

Fourth. The policy of national reconciliation makes it possible to settle the situation around Afghanistan, end the war and fratricide, establish peace throughout the country's territory, and form a coalition government with the participation of all forces representing Afghan society, including those who are currently opposed to one another.

Fifth. The final status of their country among other states will be determined by the Afghans themselves and nobody but them. The Soviet Union reaffirms its support for President Najibullah's statement on Afghanistan as an independent, nonaligned, and neutral state. It proceeds from the premise that the territory of that country or any of its parts will never be used for purposes hostile to its neighbors with regard to which Afghanistan will continue a policy of good-neighborly relations and cooperation. This equally applies to the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of India, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Soviet side backs the Afghan president's statement to the effect that Afghanistan's internal structure will rest on a multi-party system in the political field and on a multi-sectoral basis in the economic sphere.

Sixth. It is of key importance for implementing the policy of national reconciliation to create satisfactory conditions for the return of Afghan refugees who are temporarily in the territory of Pakistan and other countries and grant them rights on an equal basis with all citizens of the country. The Soviet Union will extend assistance to the Afghan Government in creating such conditions.

Seventh. The Soviet Union, relying on relations of traditional and historical friendship, expresses the readiness to cooperate with Afghanistan at a high level in order to restore the economy and facilitate the economic and social development of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Eighth. The general secretary and the president call on other states to contribute to establishing peace and national reconciliation in Afghanistan and respect the Geneva Accords. This would set a good and encouraging example for resolving other regional conflicts.

Mikhail Gorbachev gave a luncheon in honor of Najibullah, which was held in a friendly, comradely atmosphere.

Najibullah Leaves Tashkent

LD070954 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, left Tashkent for Kabul today after meeting with Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

He was seen off at the airport by Comrades Shevardnadze and Nishanov and other officials.

Shevardnadze Addresses Embassy Meeting in Kabul

LD061616 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] A meeting of activists among the staff of Soviet institutions in Afghanistan was held in the USSR Embassy in the Republic of Afghanistan. Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, delivered a report at the meeting. Comrade Murakhovskiy, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, took part in the meeting of activists.

Afghan Economic Cooperation Talks End in Kabul

Protocol Signed

LD061700 Moscow TASS in English 1637 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul April 6 TASS—The standing inter-governmental Soviet-Afghan Commission for Economic Cooperation held its 8th session here from April 4 to 6.

The sides examined the present state of prospects for economic, technological and commercial cooperation between the two countries.

Specific measures were carried out since the 7th session, making it possible to speed up work in major areas and at principal cooperation projects.

The sides noted with satisfaction that Soviet-Afghan economic relations were characterised not only by breadth, but also by the innovative approach and the search for new forms and directions.

This search is being conducted with due account for the restructuring of the Soviet Union's foreign economic activity and the policy of national reconciliation conducted by the leadership of Afghanistan.

It was noted in this connection that direct ties between regions and republics of the Soviet Union and all provinces of Afghanistan were being developed.

This new form of cooperation is gradually expanding its share in the overall complex of economic ties between the two countries and has good prospects.

Special attention was given to the further development of cooperation with the private sector. This direction is acquiring special significance and meets the goals of the Afghan Government's economic policy aimed at developing all economic sectors.

With a view to further perfecting trade and economic cooperation, the sides proceeded from the need for enhancing efficiency in the use of Soviet economic assistance in keeping with specific conditions and real opportunities of the republic of Afghanistan.

Delegation members had working meetings with the leadership of corresponding ministries and departments of Afghanistan.

The head of the Soviet delegation was received in Kabul by President Najibullah and Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand.

A number of inter-governmental documents related to further cooperation in operating facilities built with Soviet aid, assistance in the field of public health, education, personnel training, development of information and communications means and others were signed.

A protocol was signed on the completion of the session marked by an atmosphere of friendship and mutual assistance.

The Soviet delegation was headed by Vsevolod Murakhovskiy, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Agro-Industrial Committee of the USSR, the Afghan delegation was led by Muhammad 'Aziz, deputy prime minister of Afghanistan.

The Soviet ambassador to Afghanistan, Nikolay Yegorychev, and deputy prime ministers of Afghanistan Mahbullah Koshani and Muhammad Hakim took part in the work of the inter-governmental commission.

Murakhovskiy Interviewed

LD061805 Moscow Teleivision Service in Russian 1430 GMT 6 Apr 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] A regular session of the permanent intergovernmental Soviet-Afghan Commission on Economic Cooperation ended today in Kabul.

[Correspondent M. Leshchinskiy, indentified by caption] A joint protocol was signed as a result of the commission's work. It reflects the fact that all questions which were discussed and recorded in it are accords on the main directions of work of Soviet and Afghan organizations within the framework of trade and economic cooperation for the forthcoming period.

At the session, the Soviet and Afghan sides earnestly approached the question of long-term prospects for economic relations for the period up to the year 2000. The objective need for this was determined by the task of speeding up the development of the country's productive forces and of raising the living standards of the Afghan people. Current matters are closely linked to future matters and in this, perhaps, lies the main practical result of the Soviet-Afghan commission session which has taken place. [video shows views of the signing ceremony; Leshchinskiy and Murakhovskiy are shown talking with the microphone held between them]

[Leshchinskiy] Vsevolod Serafimovich, in the documents which have just been signed significant attention is paid to expanding economic cooperation between our countries, to strengthening it. Along what directions, perhaps new directions, will that cooperation be developing?

[Murakhovskiy] It must be said that at the eighth session of the intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation, great attention indeed was paid to the use of new forms of cooperation which will correspond with the present stage of development of the revolution in Afghanistan. Primary attention is now being focussed on

drawing private capital, merchants, traders, and peasants into active cooperation . For those purposes, we intend to create joint enterprises and small enterprises which could promote the activization of economic life and the development of marketing and monetary relations in Afghanistan. We intend to create such enterprises in the development of agricultural production, transport, trade, and the services sphere. All of this, in our view, ought to stimulate the activeness of the population—of all sections, groups, and classes in Afghan society—and to draw the majority of the population to the side of the revolution.

[Leshchinskiy] And, in the final analysis, probably to facilitate the establishment of peace in that unfortunate land?

[Murakhovskiy] We do have in mind that the new conditions in Afghanistan are characterized by the implementation of the national reconciliation policy and is in our view a good basis for this, for the implementation of the national reconciliation policy may be served by the active development of economic life.

[Leshchinskiy] Thank you very much.

Najibullah Message to UN Chief Reported

LD062039 Moscow TASS in English 1912 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul April 6 TASS—BAKHTAR news agency has circulated the text of Afghan President Najibullah's message to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar in connection with issues of settling the situation around Afghanistan.

The U.N. secretary-general's attention was again drawn to the situation at the indirect Afghan-Pakistani talks in Geneva conducted through Diego Cordovez, his personal representative.

At the Geneva talks, the Afghan side sticks to a constructive and flexible stance which has made it possible to complete work on [word indistinct] of [word indistinct] documents in the package they are ready for signing.

The Pakistani delegation has linked for a long time the signing of the Geneva accords to the fixing of time-table for the withdrawal of the limited contingent of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

The February statements by the Afghan president and General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev setting the time-table for the Soviet troop pull-out removed the remaining obstacles in the way of the successful completion of the Geneva talks.

The Pakistani Government, however, adopted a stand that does not (?lead to) the termination of one of the gravest regional conflicts. The Pakistani delegation put forward as a condition for signing the accords the question of recognising the "Durand Line" as the border between the two countries.

It is absolutely clear that this demand has never been part of the U.N. resolution on the package of the Geneva negotiations. It must be noted that Pakistan not only voted for that resolution, but also was its sponsor.

The resolution was supported by the heads of state and government of the non-aligned countries at the Harare conference and by the leaders of Islamic countries at the conference on Afghan settlement on January 28, 1987.

Pakistan, however, is seeking to impose the discussion of the "Durand Line" issue despite the fact that it was neither on the agenda of the talks, nor in the resolution of the U.N. General Assembly.

It is becoming clear that Pakistan throughout all rounds of the talks in Geneva has interfered in the internal affairs of its neighbour, which resulted in the death of thousands of Afghans.

The Pakistani ruling circles are thus acting against the interests of their people, on instructions of reactionary and imperialist circles interested in the continuation of the conflict.

The Afghan Government, in pursuing a policy of national reconciliation, is acting in full compliance with the U.N. resolutions and is applying maximum effort to end bloodshed and secure the return of Afghan refugees.

The Government of Afghanistan would like the settlement of the situation around Afghanistan to be an example for resolving other regional conflicts.

Gerasimov Views Delay in Afghan Settlement

PM071335 Moscow SOVETSKAYA KULTURA in Russian 5 Apr 88 p 7

[Article by Observer Gennadiy Gerasimov under the rubric "World on Tuesday": "Way Out of Afghanistan"]

[Text] In March it seemed that a settlement of the situation around Afghanistan was in the cards. The long-awaited Afghan-Pakistani agreements were ready or almost ready but had not yet been signed.

The United States advanced new terms: first with regard to "symmetry" in ending military aid, then with regard to a "moratorium," and finally with the intention of proposing not to end military aid on a mutual basis.

U.S. weapons are transferred to the Afghan opposition not directly but through the Pakistani military. If Pakistan signed the agreements which have been prepared,

that would be sufficient even without a U.S. guarantee, because under these agreements Pakistan must not interfere in Afghan affairs, and transferring weapons means interfering. But Pakistan refuses to sign without U.S. blessing.

Let us ask a hackneyed question: Whom does this benefit?

Pakistan wants to rid itself of the burden of the Afghan refugees and have a calm neighbor. On the other hand, thanks to the present situation, Pakistan is getting more from the United States than it could reckon on under normal circumstances.

Pakistan also would not be averse to taking advantage of the situation in order to resolve disagreements regarding the line that the Pakistani-Afghan border takes. The question was raised in Geneva, but was then removed by the Pakistani side. On this issue all Afghan political forces—both the government in Kabul and the so-called "Alliance of Seven"—are opposed to Pakistan.

Iran would probably like to have an ideologically similar neighbor underpinned by Islamic fundamentalism. However, Iran is at war with Iraq, and the Afghan problem has been shifted somewhat into the background.

China, which has a short border with Afghanistan, considers our military presence there one of the "obstacles" to improved relations. But this presence is coming to an end.

The Soviet Union wants Afghanistan to remain a friendly country. We support the program of national reconciliation as the only sensible way out of the impasse of civil war.

On the one hand, the United States seems to want a Soviet withdrawal while, on the other hand, if you listen to political cynics (who call themselves "realists"), it would like to "keep the pot boiling" because our military presence in Afghanistan makes us pay, inter alia, a political price, as can be seen, for example, from the annual votes on the Afghan question at UN General Assembly sessions. In any case, it wants to continue supporting the armed opposition, that is, to guarantee that it is armed. This runs counter to the national reconciliation program and is an invitation to continue the civil war.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan is thirsting for an end to the devastating war. The government in Kabul is pursuing a policy of national reconciliation, is ready to give up power, and offers the posts of prime minister and vice president to the opposition. But the leaders of the so-called "Alliance of Seven" in Peshawar favor war until their victorious end. At the same time, they are in no way united, and from time to time their armed detachments fight each other. This shows the complexity of the situation with its mix of personal ambitions, tribal discord, and religious and ideological disagreements.

Doris Lessing's book "And the Wind Carries Off Our Words" was recently published in the West. The well-known British writer decided in that book to become a journalist. Most of the book is taken up with records of her conversations with members of the Afghan opposition in Peshawar. She also aspires to generalizations, drawing historical parallels, as well as posing as a moral arbiter, accusing the West of being indifferent to the Afghans' fate. "There is a reluctance to criticize the Soviet Union," Lessing complains.

The Soviet Union has made the political decision to withdraw from Afghanistan—preferably in accordance with the Geneva agreements which have been prepared, but, if the U.S.-Pakistani sabotage continues, it will be on the basis of a separate agreement with Afghanistan.

Carlucci Visits to India, Pakistan Reported

Meets Indian Defense Minister

PM070759 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Apr 88 Morning Edition p 4

[Own correspondent N. Paklin report: "Defense Ministers' Dialogue"]

[Text] Delhi—U.S. Defense Secretary F. Carlucci visited the Indian capital Monday. Great significance is attached to this visit here.

"The visit by U.S. Defense Secretary F. Carlucci—the second of its kind in 40 years—confirms Washington's intention to seek to coordinate its strategic interests with India's growing role as a regional power," writes India's oldest newspaper, THE TIMES OF INDIA.

Immediately on arrival in Delhi, F. Carlucci met with Indian Defense Minister K. Pant. Talks have begun here between delegations of high-ranking military experts with the participation of diplomats from the two countries. F. Carlucci and K. Pant led the delegations. Although the parties are keeping secret the main content of the talks, Indian newspapers, citing "informed sources," write that it concerns the problems of security in South Asia and the two countries' growing cooperation in the military technology sphere. In particular, the questions of the upcoming withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and U.S. military aid to Pakistan were discussed. Indian sources are reporting that the Pentagon chief attempted to justify U.S. military aid to Pakistan by citing the "Soviet military presence in Afghanistan." In light of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from this country, F. Carlucci promised to "reexamine the policy of military aid to Islamabad."

At the end of the talks, which were characterized as "frank and friendly," the official spokesman of the Indian delegation informed journalists of certain specific proposals made by the U.S. side. This concerns, in particular, deliveries of turbines for India's light combat aircraft, night vision instruments for the Air Force, and missiles and instruments for the Navy. At the same time, it was noted that "the United States considers it difficult to give a positive answer to India's request to receive certain forms of U.S. equipment and combat hardware."

Gandhi 'Protests' Policy

LD061739 Moscow TASS in English 1343 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] New Delhi April 6 TASS—U.S. Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci has ended his visit to India. At the talks with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, Defense Minister Krishna Chandra Pant and other Indian officials questions were discussed in connection with the situation in the world and in South Asia as well as the state of Indian-American relations in various fields. The sides devoted special attention to the situation around Afghanistan and the supplies of advanced American weapons to the Islamabad regime.

Rajiv Gandhi spoke highly of the Soviet-American Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles, and expressed hope that this treaty would play an important role in lessening the military confrontation in Europe, would give an impetus to the talks on a reduction of the conventional weapons and the armed forces of NATO and of the Warsaw Treaty member countries deployed there, to strenghening peace and security in other parts of the world.

The Indian prime minister wished every success to the upcoming Soviet-American summit meeting in Moscow and stressed that international public looks forward to progress at the talks on the issue of cuts in strategic offensive weapons.

The newspaper NATIONAL HERALD, which is close to the Indian Government, quotes well-informed sources as saying that the talks have brought about a divergence in the stands of India and the USA on the issue of the situation in the region in the light of the forthcoming return of the Soviet military contingent home from Afghanistan. The Indian prime minister expressed to F. Carlucci serious concern about the intention of the USA to broaden the supply of big consignments of U.S. weapons to Pakistan. Such actions, Rajiv Gandhi noted, will lead to a further growth of the threat to peace in South Asia.

Addressing a press conference held in the Indian capital, the U.S. secretary of defense has actually brushed aside India's protests over Washington's policy of militarising Pakistan and attempted to justify the supply to Pakistan of U.S. weapons, which, as he put it, contributes to maintaining stability in South Asia.

Arrives in Pakistan

LD062213 Moscow TASS in English 1918 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Islamabad April 6 TASS—U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci, touring a number of countries of North Africa and South Asia, arrived here for a three-day official visit today. The programme of his visit envisages meetings with Pakistan's President General Ziaul Haq, Prime Minister of Defence Rana Naim Mahmud Khan and representatives of the Pakistani Armed Forces Command. The Pentagon's chief will visit tomorrow the area of the Khyber Pass in Pakistan's North-West Frontier Province where, as is known, the main camps of the armed Afghan opposition are situated. Carlucci is accompanied by Assistant Secretary of Defence for International Security Affairs Richard Armitage.

The state of and prospects for the military cooperation between the USA and Pakistan are planned to be discussed at the Pakistani-U.S. talks in Islamabad in the framework of a military-economic deal to a sum of over four billion (?dollars for) [words indistinct] the Pakistani side is expected to pose again the (?question) of the purchases of AWACS aircraft from the USA, despite a serious concern expressed in this connection by India. Special attention is to be given to the discussion of questions of political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan and of indirect Afghan-Pakistani talks held in Geneva with the United Nations mediation.

Reports coming here say that on Tuesday the Pentagon informed the U.S. Congress that it intends to sell Pakistan eleven F-16 fighter bombers to a sum of 256 million dollars in addition to the 40 F-16 aircraft Pakistan already has. Islamabad will also be supplied with 200 Sparrow missiles and 360 Sidewinder missiles of the air-to-air class to a total value of 87 million dollars. These deliveries evoke sharp protests in countries that are Pakistan's neighbours.

Commentary on Arms Sales

LD061748 Moscow TASS in English 1406 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 6 TASS—Follows commentary by TASS news analyst Valeriy Vavilov:

In trying to justify the supply of U.S. weapons to Pakistan, U.S. Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci claimed that the American policy "contributes to the stability in South Asia."

Addressing a press conference in New Delhi on the results of his visit to India, he actually brushed aside the serious protests from India's Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and other Indian leaders, who expressed concern about the intention of the USA to step up U.S. weapons supplies to Pakistan, about Islamabad's striving to get qualitatively new weapons, to create its own nuclear weapons.

Therefore it is not accidental that Rajiv Gandhi warned against such actions which will further increase the threat to peace in South Asia.

How real is this threat? How well justified is the concern about the turning of Pakistan into a nuclear power? If one is to believe Islamabad's official actions, such a threat is non-existent. It is claimed that Pakistan's nuclear program pursues purely peaceful aims. Statements to this effect have been more than once made by President Ziaul Haq. During his latest visit to Washington, Pakistan prime minister Junejo exclaimed in answer to the question of a newsman whether Pakistan had at least one A-bomb: We do not have even enough electricity. How can we make a bomb.

It is an open secret that Pakistan is going through serious economic difficulties. As far as the work for the creation of nuclear weapons is concerned facts refute claims by the Pakistani premier. Quoting a classified report of the Intelligence Office of the U.S. Defense Department the newspaper WASHINGTON POST said that the Pakistanis succeeded in obtaining enriched Uranium-235 of the necessary concentration at the Kohout atomic facility. According to THE NEW YORK TIMES magazine, the quantity of uranium enriched in Pakistan by the end of 1987 was enough for the production of six A-bombs, and by the end of the nineties that country will be able to make up to 15 atomic bombs a year each equal in its yield to the Hiroshima bomb.

Notwithstanding that, the U.S. arms supplies to Pakistan far from being ceased as is demanded by U.S. laws themselves, banning the supply of weapons to the countries engaged in the development of nuclear weapons, but are, on the contrary, further growing. Frank Carlucci was not ashamed of saying that even when in New Delhi. He said that already in the current year Washington would supply Pakistan with another eleven fighter bombers F-16 worth a total of 256 million dollars and 200 Sparrow missiles and 360 Sidewinder air-to-air missiles wortha total of 87 million dollars.

Is Washington really serious in believing that by supplying its weapons to Pakistan, encouraging its nuclear ambitions it really contributes towards maintaining stability in South Asia?

Kuwaiti Hijacking Denounced as 'Terrorism'

LD061816 Moscow International Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] An important part of today's news is devoted to the hijacking of the Kuwaiti passenger plane which was forced to land in the Iranian city of Mashhad. The air pirates are holding all the passengers hostage, except for 24 women and 1 sick Jordanian man who have been released. The air pirates are threatening to blow up the plane if their demands are not met. Their demands are political, as they want the Kuwaiti authorities to release 17 prisoners who were arrested and convicted of carrying out terrorist acts in Kuwait.

Kuwait, like other countries which have found themselves in a similar situation, has categorically rejected the warning issued by the air pirates.

It is difficult to predict the outcome of this story, but it is necessary to state the following: The outbreak of international terrorism, to which the hijacking of the Kuwaiti plane must be attributed, is a sign of serious danger. The Soviet Union is fiercely opposed to all forms of terrorism, including its most dangerous form: Air piracy and the taking of civilians as hostages, whatever the political demands are.

The people who carry out such terrorist acts are on the same level as the Zionist Israelis and the racists of the RSA who practice a policy of widespread terrorism against Arabs and Africans. On the basis of these very acts, they are denounced by the international community, and because of such acts racism and fascism are put on the same level.

The hijacking of the Kuwaiti plane should be likewise denounced.

PLO's 'Arafat To Arrive in USSR 7 Apr

LD061944 Moscow TASS in English 1845 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 6 TASS—The chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), commander-in-chief of the forces of the Palestine Revolution Yasir 'Arafat will arrive on a visit in the Soviet Union tomorrow [7 April], it was announced by the plenipotentionary representative of the PLO in the Soviet Union Nabil 'Umar.

Members of the PLO Executive Committee Sulayman al-Najjab, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, 'Abdallah Hurani, and Abu 'Ali Mustafa will arrive in Moscow today. They are members of the delegation accompanying Yasir 'Arafat.

The visit by the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee to the USSR is of extreme importance in the present conditions when the idea of convening an international Middle East conference is gaining ever greater (?support) in the world, the PLO representative said.

Nabil 'Umar noted that the PLO was attaching exceptional importance to developing ties with the Soviet Union, especially in the light of the Soviet leadership's vigorous striving towards the establishment of peace and stability in the Middle East and its initiatives directed at a peaceful solution of explosive regional problems.

Nabil 'Umar, a 40-year-old Palestinian jurist, was born in Dura, a village near the town of Hebron. He was forced to leave it twenty years ago. Today he presented to

Yuliy Vorontsov, first deputy minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, a letter on his appointment as plenipotentionary representative of the PLO in the USSR.

PLO Envoy Presents Credentials to Vorontsov

LD062008 Moscow TASS in English 1449 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 6 TASS—Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov today received Nabil 'Umar who handed him a letter on his appointment as representative extraordinary of the Palestine Liberation Organisation in the Soviet Union.

Vorontsov reaffirmed in the conversation the Soviet people's solidarity with the Palestinian people's courageous struggle for their legitimate national rights and wished 'Umar success in his high position as PLO representative in Moscow.

Palestine Communists Issue Statement on Unrest

LD062208 Moscow TASS in English 1449 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Damascus March 6 TASS—The Palestinian Communist Party has released a statement here which says that the purpose behind the current Middle Eastern tour of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is to lend support to the Israeli invaders who try to quell by force the uprising by the Palestinian people.

This takes place against the background of the U.S. Administration's refusal to convene an authoritative international conference on the Middle East, to cooperate and have any contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) which on behalf of its people decisively comes out for the implementation of the Palestinian Arabs' lawful right to self-determination and creation of a national independent state, the document says.

The U.S. ruling quarters underestimate the persistence and will of our people, disregard the world public opinion which is shocked by the crimes committed by Israeli invaders and firmly demands an end to terror and violence.

To conceal from the whole world its crimes, Tel Aviv imposed a total blockade on the seized Arab territories and isolated them from the outside world. A campaign of mass arrests is being carried out. An official spokesman for the occupation authorities threatened that they blacklisted the names of tens of thousands of Palestinians whom they regard as instigators of the unrest.

But all these crimes—killings, torture, violence, beatings and deportation—will only intensify the struggle by our people for their inalienable national rights, the statement emphasizes.

Jordan's Husayn Receives Delegation in Amman

LD070622 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2242 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Amman, 7 Apr (TASS)—On Wednesday, King Husayn received a delegation from the Soviet-Jordanian Friendship Society, led by Nikolay Trubilin, deputy chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers. During the conversation, the king commended the support that the Soviet Union is giving to the just cause of the Arabs. He noted the identity of the positions of Jordan and the USSR on current international problems and emphasized the important role being played by the friendship society in the development of cultural ties between the two countries.

The Soviet delegation, which is taking part in the celebrations marking the twentieth anniversary of the founding of the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society, was also received by 'Akif al-Fayiz, chairman of the chamber of deputies, by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, and by ministers of the Jordanian Government.

Envoy to Egypt Discusses Mideast, Gulf War

JN051802 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 4 Apr 88 p 7

[Interview with USSR Ambassador to Egypt Gennadiy Kirillovich Zhuravlev by Sana' Sa'id in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD: Following the escalation of the war of cities between Iraq and Iran, which has been going on for more than 1 month, how true are the reports that the USSR supplied Iraq with Scud B-12 missiles, helped Iraq develop them for a 650-km range instead of 350 km, and supplied it with SS-12 missiles?

Ambassador: All the reports about this issue are groundless. The USSR did not provide Iraq with any type of missiles, whether SS-12's or any other type. The USSR has not supplied any country, including Iraq, with such missiles. The USSR also has not offered Iraq any technical or technological assistance to develop any type of missiles. I wonder: Since we did not orginally supply Iraq with any missiles, how could we help it develop them?

AL-ITTIHAD: The Arabs are not happy with the USSR's procrastination over the issuance of a resolution imposing an arms embargo on Iraq, especially since such a resolution could have led to the implementation of Resolution 598, which was issued some 10 months ago and is still waiting to be implemented?

Ambassador: It goes without saying that the USSR is eager to halt the Iraq-Iran war. That's why it took the lead in efforts achieve this objective. This is substantiated by its recent initiative to end the war. This initiative calls on the UN Security Council to pass a resolution

calling on the two countries to end the war of cities and to appoint a UN representative who will visit both countries and supervise the implementation of the new resolution.

AL-ITTIHAD: Some claim that the USSR is wasting time by submitting initiatives that are not viewed seriously because they have nothing to do with the serious resolution of imposing an arms embargo?

Ambassador: One cannot say that our initiatives are not serious. This is because we are persistently and sincerely seeking to end the Iraq-Iran war as soon as possible. With respect to the issue of an arms embargo, the Soviets made an official declaration on the Iraq-Iran war. Stating that if Iran does not respond to the call for ending the war, then we will be ready to study an arms embargo resolution. I would like to stress here that if there are some doubts about a resolution on an embargo, then these doubts have been raised about the West, which still supplies Iran with weapons through its companies and agents. These doubts do not revolve around our stand because the USSR has not supplied Iran with any weapons. All the weapons come from the West. The Irangate scandal is still fresh in our minds.

AL-ITTIHAD: There are reports that an Arab summit will convene in mid-April. What do you expect from such a summit, if it convenes?

Ambassador: We support and encourage any measures to attain a peaceful settlement in the region. We believe that the convocation of an international conference is the only course for this. We also believe that the Palestinian cause should be the principal topic of any talks to be held in the region. From this premise, we welcome any meeting within this framework. We support the idea of an international conference with the participation of the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole and legitimate representative.

AL-ITTIHAD: How do you view the current escalation of the Israeli iron-fist policy in the occupied West Bank and Gaza with the imposition of economic pressure and other oppressive measures?

Ambassador: The Soviet Union supports and backs the Palestinian people in their legitimate struggle. It believes that the current events in the occupied territories stress the urgent need to achieve a just and comprehensive settlement in the region by convening an international conference on the Middle East with broad powers. At the same time, we condemn Israel's oppressive measures in the occupied territories and against the Arab people of those territories, including economic pressure. The people and Government of the Soviet Union have emphasized that all the current policies elicit strong resentment and condemnation. We understand the Palestinian struggle and urge the Palestinian people to continue their popular uprising. We also back and support the PLO. We do not understand the recent U.S. measures against the PLO office in New York.

AL-ITTIHAD: Contrary to the Fes plan, the current U.S. initiative does not mention the PLO. What do the Soviets think of what has been termed the Shultz plan?

Ambassador: The Shultz plan poses many questions to which we find no answers, despite the fact that such answers are essential for a settlement in the region. The first question concerns the international conference provided for in the plan. It is not yet known what kind of conference the Americans mean. The plan does not provide for an Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories in accordance with the UN resolutions, including Resolution 242. The plan does not mention the PLO as a sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and as an entity recognized by 105 countries. The Soviet Union believes in the principle that we all have to seize any positive opportunity to bring about peace. The Shultz plan comes within this framework—namely, bringing the possibility of achieving a settlement in the region closer. However, the Arab parties and the Soviet Union are not the only party. There are also Israel and Shamir, who categorically reject the Shultz plan. The U.S. strategic ally is the party blocking a settlement in the region. This ally's stand vis-a-vis the Shultz plan is an ample proof on this.

AL-ITTIHAD: What about the current situation in Afghanistan in light of the fact that the Geneva talks are running into trouble. There has been almost a month of negotiations without an agreement between Pakistan and the Afghan Government. What is the current position of the Soviet Union regarding pulling out of Afghanistan?

Ambassador: The Geneva talks are still under way. We cannot say they have reached an impasse. It is still possible to arrive at an agreement on the Geneva clauses. The current obstacle is due to the new conditions set forth by the United States and Pakistan. These conditions are contrary to the reality, which says that all the internal affairs of Afghanistan concern the Afghans themselves. The Soviet Union will withdraw its troops once an agreement is reached and when the principle of noninterference by any party in Afghan affairs in definitely maintained. As yet, there is no fixed date for the pullout. The current government in Afghanistan is the legitimate government. Therefore, all attempts by the United States and other forces to interfere in the issue of forming an interim government constitute a flagrant interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs, especially since the Afghan Government has expressed its readiness to form an all-party coalition government, including the opposition. The foreign interference, therefore, is causing the continuation of military operations until now.

AL-ITTIHAD: Some observers are wondering whether the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan will mean leaving Kabul's government facing its destiny on its own. Does this imply the Soviet Union will stop its aid to the Afghan Government, especially since the United States is demanding this as a precondition for it stopping its aid to the Afghan mujahidin?

Ambassador: We cannot say that there will be a halt to Soviet aid to the Afghan Government because there are military and economic relations. These are ties between two governments in two friendly states going back to 1922. They have a common border and joint economic ventures. Soviet assistance to the Afghan Government is based on geography and the reality of old and known ties within the framework of the bilateral relations. The U.S. assistance to the Afghan mujahidin, on the other hand, is a different matter as it aims at maintaining tension in Afghanistan and means an explicit interference in Afghan affairs. Therefore, we help the Afghan Government with all our capacity.

Supreme Soviet Delegation Meets Omani Sultan

LD061547 Moscow TASS in English 1448 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Muscat April 6 TASS—The special mission of the USSR Supreme Soviet, now on a tour of Persian Gulf countries, had a meeting today with the State Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman Yusuf ibn al-Alawi 'Abdallah.

During the conversation with the special mission headed by Vice President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Georgiy Tarazevich, the minister expressed hope that the visit by the Soviet members of parliament would make a positive contribution to the development of relations between the USSR and Oman. He stressed that Oman received with satisfaction the Soviet Union's peace-loving initiatives in the international arena. On behalf of the Omani leadership he expressed gratitude and appreciation for the stand taken by the USSR on problems of the Arab world.

Touching on the situation in the Persian Gulf area Yusuf ibn al-Alawi 'Abdallah noted that the Iran-Iraq war caused Oman's special concern. The minister said that his country was interested in freedom of shipping through the Strait of Hormuz and in the Persian Gulf. Since the war is taking place in direct proximity of Oman's borders, he said, we are grateful to the USSR for its efforts to achieve a settlement of the Iran-Iraq conflict in accordance with Resolution 598 of the United Nations Security Council. Oman welcomes and fully supports the Soviet proposal to create a United Nations naval force in the region. Given sufficient support this general idea could be made more concrete and a search started for concrete ways of implementing it. Oman has goodneighbourly relations with Iran and Iraq, the minister said, and we constantly call on these countries in cooperation with the international community to find ways of working out the terms of settling the conflict.

The special mission, which also includes deputies of the USSR Supreme Soviet—First Secretary of the Board of the Union of Writers of Tajikistan Muminsho Kanoatov and the Director General of TASS Sergey Losev—also had a conversation with the Minister of information of Oman 'Abd al 'Aziz ibn Muhammad al-Rawwas. The minister said the Omani leadership supported the idea of convening an international conference to solve the Middle East problem. He also welcomed the new Soviet initiatives directed at settling the situation around Afghanistan.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Workers Party of Ethiopia Holds 8th Plenum

LD010935 Moscow TASS in English 0648 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] Addis Ababa April 1 TASS—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia held its 8th plenary meeting here on Thursday to call on the Ethiopian people to defend the unity of the country and put an end to subversive actions of separatist elements in northern Ethiopia. Having discussed the report of Mengistu Haile Mariam, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia and president of the country, they passed a resolution which stresses that the attrition war had been unleashed by terrorist separatist elements with support of the circles opposed to a free and independent Ethiopia. The separatists were rejecting numerous calls for peace. They are currently obstructing the country's progress towards full government by the people and self-rule.

The plenary meeting called for comprehensive strengthening of the country's defense capabilities by involving all citizens in this process. It was stressed that the wide mass of the people and primarily the Workers' Party of Ethiopia and mass organisations should play a decisive role in ending the war. It is necessary to develop the economy, which must lay the groundwork for the victory and further progress of the country. It is possible only if Ethiopia retains its unity, the plenary meeting said in its resolution.

Adamishin, Ethiopia's Mengistu Note Somali Pact

LD061953 Moscow TASS in English 1820 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Addis Ababa April 6 TASS—Mengistu Haile Mariam, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia and president of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, today received visiting Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Adamishin.

Their conversation centered on the situation in the Horn of Africa and Ethiopian efforts to normalise relations with its neighbours.

The sides emphasised the need for peace, calm and cooperation in the region, for territorial integrity and sovereignty of all states.

On behalf of the Soviet leadership, Adamishin expressed to the Ethiopian leader profound satisfaction with the recent accords between Ethiopia and Somalia.

The sides exchanged opinions on some issues of bilateral relations invariably marked by mutual trust and support and by close cooperation in various fields.

Commentary on Accord

EA052119 Moscow International Service in Somali 1600 GMT 5 Apr 88

[(Aleksandr Nikhoroshev) commentary]

[Excerpts] Reports from Mogadishu say that the meeting of the ad hoc ministerial committee charged with the responsibility of finding a solution to the problems between Ethiopia and Somalia has ended. [passage omitted]

Our commentator (Aleksandr Nikhoroshev) says that politicians and journalists for many years believed that the Horn of Africa was a place where regional conflicts would prevail forever. They also believed that the rift between the countries in the region could never be solved, and agreement and stability could not be achieved.

Although I am delighted with the agreement signed in Mogadishu, its implementation is not an easy job, the commentator says. In order to implement the agreement effectively, it is imperative that the people in Ethiopia and Somalia and their leaders show courage and wisdom. It is imperative for them to face the situation realistically and not continue looking at the many problems prevailing between them. It is also imperative for them to see the whole situation positively and, at the same time, take into consideration the number of forces that have failed to applaud the Mogadishu agreement.

First, I wish to refer to Washington's major contribution to the difficult situation that prevailed in the Horn of Africa. It is no secret that Washington's policies established the U.S. military bases in Somalia and also initiated the joint military "Bright Star" exercise of Somali and U.S. forces on Somali territory.

Then I wish to refer to the current crisis facing the leaders of Somalia who have agreed to normalize relations between Somalia and Ethiopia. In my opinion, this crisis is not one for which there is no solution. The most important point is that it is imperative for all concerned to face the situation collectively and with an iron will, because it is in the interests of the peoples of the region to find the long-term solution to the problems facing Somalia. The leaders have to face the matter with an iron will, the commentator says. It is imperative that this will help the leaders to make meaningful decisions.

There is no doubt that Western diplomacy and propaganda will do everything possible to impede the normalization of relations between Somalia and Ethiopia. At the same time, they will not reveal how they were involved in the difficult situation that has prevailed in the Horn of Africa for many years. However, the truth cannot be concealed, because an important agreement has been signed in Mogadishu which could normalize relations and ensure stability for the Ethiopian and Somali peoples.

I am confident, (Aleksandr Nikhoroshev) says, that the millions of courageous Ethiopians and Somalis in those two countries and the wise and experienced policies pursued by their leadership will help solve the problem. Those courageous millions and the wise leaders in Ethiopia and Somalia will help achieve the dream of many friends of the two countries and peoples, which is the achievement of lasting peace in the Horn of Africa.

Ethiopians Celebrate Victory Day 6 Apr

LD062153 Moscow TASS in English 1738 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Addis Ababa April 6 TASS—TASS correspondent Yegor Kuznetsov reports:

The Ethiopian people marks today its national holiday, the Victory Day. 47 years ago, on April 6, 1941, the Ethiopian patriots captured Addis Ababa thus putting an end to a six-year long occupation of the country by troops of fascist Italy. Prior to the 1974 revolution that holiday was marked on May 5 as the day of the return to the country of Emperor Haile Selassie the first who had fled the country in the years of trial and had been "supervising" military operations from abroad. The revolution restored historic justice, giving the due to the heroic struggle of the people for freedom and independence.

This year the Victory Day is marked at a time difficult for Ethiopia as a civil war is actually raging in the north of the country. In Eritrea and Tigray provinces, the separatists managed to seize a number of populated localities. Their bands set on fire trucks with food products for the population of the areas affected by the drought, deal strikes at the centres where food is distributed among the hungry. Addressing a plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Ethiopia the other day, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Ethiopia, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Mengistu

Haile Mariam described the separatists' actions as "a threat to Ethiopia's unity, integrity and freedom". He urged the people of the country to be prepared to rebuff the terrorists.

Mass public organizations, the patriotic forces of Ethiopia responded to the slogan advanced by the plenum: "Everyone to the military front". Rallies are held all over the country to support that slogan. The trade unions, youth and women's organizations, the Ethiopian war veterans association, other associations of the working people of revolutionary Ethiopia proclaimed their resolve to rebuff the enemies of the motherland.

Angolan Party Delegation Visits USSR 22-31 Mar

PM071011 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Apr 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Interparty Ties"]

[Text] In accordance with the plan for party ties between the CPSU and the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labor Party, a delegation from that party was in our country 22-31 March. The Angolan comrades familiarized themselves with some aspects of the CPSU's ideological work in conditions of restructuring. Apart from Moscow, they also visited the Ukrainian and the Lithuanian SSR's.

AAPSO Remarks on ANC Official's Assassination

LD311712 Moscow TASS in English 1441 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 31 TASS—The Soviet public is indignant at the assassination of representative of the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa in France Dulcie September. She was shot dead in the centre of Paris. This vicious murder is a manifestation of the policy of state terrorism, says a statement of the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee that was read out today at a press conference at the committee.

Liquidation of political opponents in South Africa has become a customary occupation of butchers in Pretoria. The racist regime which claims the role of a "stronghold" of Western democracy and civilization in southern Africa continues threatening peoples of the entire region of southern Africa. And now Pretoria transferred state terrorism to Europe, to the very countries that are more inclined to cooperation with the racist regime than to sanctions against it. There were attempts to kidnap representatives of the ANC in Britain, two attempts of assassination of a representative of the ANC in Belgium, and now Dulcie September was assassinated in France.

This happens at a time when thousands of South African troops invade long-suffering land of Angola, when armed bandits are backed in Mozambique, raids are made on Botswana, threats are addressed to Zimbabwe and other countries of the region. Such are the links of crimes of the racist South African regime.

Condemning aggressive actions and political assassinations staged by the South African Government, the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee joins the demands of the international community that mandatory comprehensive sanctions for which the United Nations calls be imposed on the terroristic Pretoria regime. We confirm our complete support for the struggle of the patriots of South Africa headed by the ANC against the abominable apartheid regime, for a united, democratic, non-racial South Africa, says a statement of the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee.

Nigeria Urges Cooperation With Leningrad School

AB060934 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Nigeria has called for the establishment of a linkage between some of her institutions of higher learning and the Leningrad Polytechnic. The minister of education, Prof Jibril Aminu, made the call during a visit to the institute in the course of his current tour of the Soviet Union. Prof Aminu told the authorities of the polytechnic that Nigeria would want to play a leading role in high technology in response to the demands of the 21st century. He noted the high standards of the polytechnic, the integration of its curricula into the Soviet industry, and its prestige in the political setup of the country. The minister had earlier been told by the first deputy rector that the institute had already trained 24 Nigerians while 10 others were currently studying in the institute.

Prof Aminu later visited a technical school which trains middle-level manpower for the Soviet industry and enterprises before meeting with Nigerian students in the city. In their address, the students called for financial assistance to help them overcome their problems. They also requested for the revitalization of the student loan scheme and asked to be given flight tickets to go home once in 2 years. The minister emphasized the economic problems confronting Nigeria and promised to look into their requests.

East Europe

More on Visit of Poland's Messner to Moscow

Holds Talks With Gorbachev

PM070957 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 7 April 88 Second Edition pp 1,2

[TASS report under heading "Friendly Meeting"]

[Text] Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, met on 6 April with Zbigniew Messner, member of the PZPR Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Polish Council of Ministers.

Comrades Ryzhkov and Medvedev and Polish Ambassador to the Soviet Union Natorf took part in the conversation. The participants in the conversation expressed great appreciation of the development of Soviet-Polish relations. Contacts between the Soviet and Polish peoples are becoming richer and more meaningful. This reflects the profound coincidence of the fundamental interests of the Soviet Union and People's Poland and the unity of views between the two communist parties on the urgent tasks of present-day development. During a discussion of questions of economic cooperation between the USSR and Poland, it was noted that the major transformations in the national economies of the two countries have much in common and open up opportunities for supplementing the traditional trade turnover with contemporary forms of interaction in the sphere of production and science and technology. At present these opportunities are clearly being underutilized. Although direct contacts have already been established between 300 pairs of Soviet and Polish enterprises, coproduction deliveries last year were achieved by only a few of these.

The establishment of joint ventures is proceeding slowly. Meanwhile, specialized and coordinated production, Comrade Gorbachev stressed, have today become the most topical demand of the moment and promise the greatest mutual benefit.

On each side there is both the desire and the political will to advance decisively in this direction. For this reason it is possible to find solutions for any problems that arise. All that is necessary is to establish thoroughly what is hampering the more effective division of labor, and to find and elaborate methods of linking economic mechanisms and making them compatible. Having resolved this problem, we will be able to lend each other substantial support.

Each of our countries has a good deal of knowledge and production achievements and advanced experience which is of interest to our friends. To harness fully the achievements of each other on a community scale would mean to vigorously advance socialism.

Zbigniew Messner spoke about the content of the second stage of the economic reform which is under way in Poland at present, and about the measures planned by the Polish Government to ensure equilibrium between money supply and market forces [denezhno-rynochnoye ravnovesiye], to meet the needs of the country's population, and to increase the efficiency of social production. There are many complex problems on this path, and, in resolving them, the Polish leadership will strive to extensively consult with working people and take public opinion into account. We are also attentively examining the experience of our Soviet comrades and are seeking to utilize everything positive that emerges from in your restructuring, taking specifically Polish considerations into account, of course.

Speaking on the course of restructuring in the USSR, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev stressed that it has now spread far and wide and embraces all spheres of Soviet life. The ideas of revolutionary renewal are meeting with more and more support among the people. At the same time, the lack of experience and ability in working in the new way are having an effect, and conservative and leftist sentiments are making themselves felt. All this spotlights the task of providing ideological backup for restructuring. The party's attention is now focused on preparations for the 19th party conference which should draw up the results of restructuring at the halfway stage between congresses and, most importantly, should define a package of specific measures for the democratization of the life of the party and Soviet society.

During the conversation, the question of the forthcoming visit by Comrade Gorbachev to Poland was discussed. The Polish leadership, Comrade Messner said, attaches extraordinary importance to this visit and is convinced that the talks between the leaders of the two fraternal parties and countries will provide a new boost of energy to our relations. Note was made of the expediency of jointly analyzing the state of all spheres of Soviet-Polish cooperation, seeing what laggardness needs to be made up and in what areas, and, in particular, summing up the initial results of the fulfillment of the declaration on ideological cooperation signed in Moscow in April 1987.

During a discussion on international questions, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev stressed the importance of Soviet-Polish foreign policy cooperation as a major factor in European politics. The Warsaw Pact states have already achieved a good deal in their persistent striving to reduce the degree of military confrontation in Europe. There is also satisfaction in the fact that the concept of building an all-European home is gaining increasing recognition among the general public and political circles. True, there are also people who continue to take a distorted view of Europe and cannot abandon their illusions about the possibility of rearranging postwar borders and rolling back socialism. The preservation and strengthening of peace on the continent and the development of cooperation for the benefit of all peoples presume the unconditional respect of the political realities which exist here.

The conversation took place in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

Meets With Ryzhkov

PM071133 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 7 April 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report under general heading "In an Atmosphere of Mutual Understanding"]

[Text] Z. Messner, member of the Politburo of the PZPR Central Committee and chairman of the PPR Council of Ministers, was in the Soviet Union on a working visit 5-6 April.

Talks between N.I. Ryzhkov, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and Z. Messner took place.

The Polish side was briefed on the progress of the implementation of the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums directed at the restructuring of all aspects of the life of Soviet society and their democratization, on the execution of the radical economic reform, and also on the Soviet Union's efforts to achieve a fundamental turn for the better in world affairs. The head of the Polish Government was acquainted with the broad preparations for the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference which have been set in motion in the party and the country.

Z. Messner provided information on the fulfillment of the decisions of the 10th PZPR Congress, the measures being taken to implement the second stage of the economic reform, and the process of democratization of public and political life in the PPR within the framework of the policy of socialist renewal and national accord. It was noted that the Communists and the broad masses of the working people of Poland view the transformations that are going on in the Soviet Union with deep approval and support the CPSU's foreign policy line and the program of the struggle for a nonnuclear world.

Particular attention was devoted at the talks to matters involved in the implementation of the accords reached during meetings between M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and W. Jaruzelski, first secretary of the PZPR Central Committee, on deepening the economic integration of the USSR and the PPR and making broad use of new progressive forms of cooperation. The importance of stepping up efforts to put into practice the provisions of the Soviet-Polish declaration on cooperation in the sphere of ideology, culture, and science, signed at summit level, was noted. It was stressed that M.S. Gorbachev's forthcoming visit to Poland will be of great importance for the further consolidation of the fraternal friendship and all-around cooperation between the CPSU and PZPR and between the USSR and PPR.

The sides expressed the conviction that the restructuring of the economic mechanism which is being implemented in both countries is creating real opportunities for raising bilateral relations in the economic sphere onto a qualitatively new level. A joint, persistent search for bold, nonstandard solutions and approaches that meet present-day requirements is necessary for fuller utilization of the material and intellectual potential of the two countries in the interests of socialist construction. In this context, the sides agreed to step up efforts to develop direct production links, expand the exchange of goods in areas close to the frontier, and establish joint enterprises, associations, and collektives. Further improvement of the structure of bilateral trade, on the basis of broad cooperation and the specialization of production and raising the technical standard and quality of production supplied by each side to the other were put forward as important tasks. The sides agreed to conclude in the first half of 1988 the elaboration of a concept for economic and scientific-technical cooperation between the USSR and the PPR for the next 15-20 years.

The heads of government of the two countries signed a program for cooperation between the USSR and the PPR in the sphere of the development of nuclear power in the PPR up to the year 2000.

The paramount importance was noted of implementing the comprehensive program for scientific-technical progress of the CEMA members countries up to the year 2000 as the basis for putting into practice the agreed on scientific-technical policy and making effective use of advanced achievements of science and technology in production.

Consistent fulfillment of the decisions of the 43rd CEMA (extraordinary) session on restructuring the mechanism of socialist economic integration will, in the opinion of the sides, contribute to more effective utilization of the potential of the international socialist division of labor, in the interests of the dynamic development of the national economies of the USSR and the PPR and a further increase in their peoples' prosperity.

The talks confirmed the sides' agreement in their assessment of the situation in Europe and the world, the full concurrence of their views on the main international problems, and the determination of the Soviet Union and Poland to continue to collaborate closely in foreign policy matters and to increase their efforts to eliminate the nuclear threat and set up a comprehensive system of international peace and security. The heads of government noted the particular importance of the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting in Washington in December 1987 and of the signing of the treaty between the USSR and the United States on the elimination of their intermediate- and shorter-range missiles. The hope was expressed that the new meeting between the highest leaders of the two countries in Moscow will be marked by further movement forwards in the matter of reducing and eliminating nuclear arsenals, strategic offensive arms above all.

In the interests of reducing the level of military confrontation, of disarmament, and of strengthening trust and neighborliness among the European countries, the USSR and the PPR are firmly intent—together with the other Warsaw Pact member-states—on seeking a considerable cut in armed forces and conventional arms in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals. The importance of the proposals contained in the "Jaruzelski plan," the implementation of which would encourage an improvement of the military-political situation on the continent, was noted. The Soviet side confirmed its support for this initiative.

The heads of government of the USSR and the PPR noted that an indispensable condition for the maintenance of stable peace in Europe is the inviolability of the territorial-political realities which arose on the continent as a result of WW II and postwar development.

The determination to continue to strengthen the unity and cohesion of the countries of the socialist community, to develop their cooperation in an all-around manner and to deepen their collaboration in the international arena in the interests of consolidating general peace and security was stressed during the talks.

The talks proceeded in a cordial and comradely atmosphere. Taking part in them were: on the Soviet side, Yu.D. Maslyukov, candidate member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee, 1st deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR State Planning Committee; and A.K. Antonov, a deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; and on the Polish side, Z. Szalajda, deputy chairman of the PPR Council of Ministers, and other officials. [Moscow TASS International in Russian at 1800 GMT on 6 April in a similar report adds: "In the evening, Z. Messner left Moscow for home. He was seen off by N.I. Ryzhkov and other officials."]

Communique on Talks

LD070849 Warsaw PAP in English 0015 GMT 7 Apr 88

["Communique on Polish-Soviet Talks—Abridged"—PAP headline]

[Text] Moscow, April 6—PUWP CC Political Bureau member, Prime Minister Zbigniew Messner, now on a working visit to the Soviet Union, held talks with CPSU CC Political Bureau member and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR NIKOLAY Ryzhkov at the Kremlin today.

Zbigniew Messner was received by CPSU CC Secretary General Mikhail Gorbachev. The talk focused on fundamental issues of Polish-Soviet relations.

It was stated that Polish Communists and wide circles of working people in Poland fully approved of transformations taking place in the Soviet Union and supported the course of foreign policy of the CPSU and the programme of struggle for a world free of nuclear weapons.

During the talks particular attention was paid to the implementation of agreements reached during the meetings of PUWP CC First Secretary Wojciech Jaruzelski with CPSU CC General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev that concerned the deepening of economic integration between Poland and the Soviet Union and a broad use of new progressive forms of cooperation. Stressed was the importance of the animation of efforts for the benefit of the materialization of the Polish-Soviet declaration on cooperation in ideology, culture and science, adopted at the top level. It was emphasized that Mikhail Gorbachev's forthcoming visit to Poland will be of great importance for further consolidation of fraternal friendship and comprehensive cooperation between the PUWP and the CPSU, and Poland and the Soviet Union. The two sides expressed the conviction that the restructuring of the economic mechanism, now under way in the two countries, created real possibilities to reach a qualitatively new level of bilateral economic relations. The fuller use of material and intellectual potentials of the two states in the interest of the socialism building requires a joint and persistent search for bold and unorthodox solutions that meet the requirements of the present day. The two sides agreed they would animate their efforts for the development of direct production ties, the broadening of border exchange of goods, the establishing of joint enterprises, amalgamations and collectives. It was decided to improve the structure of mutual trade exchange on the basis of broad coproduction and specialization and to better technical level and quality of mutual deliveries which was considered a particularly important task. The two sides agreed that in the first half of 1988 they would complete work on the concept of economic, scientific and technological cooperation between Poland and the Soviet Union in the next 15 to 20 years.

Attention was paid to the crucial significance of the materialization of the comprehensive programme of scientific and technological progress of the CMEA states until the year 2000 as a basis for implementing the agreed scientific and technological policy and effective use of leading attainments of science and technology in production.

Consistent implementation of the resolutions of the 43rd extraordinary CMEA session on the restructuring of mechanisms of socialist economic integration will, according to both the sides, encourage more effective utilization of the capacities within international socialist division of labour, for the sake of dynamic development of Poland's and the Soviet Union's national economies and of a further growth in their peoples' living standard.

The talks confirmed the unity of the sides in assessment of the situation in Europe and the world, their full unity of views on fundamental international issues, Poland's and the Soviet Union's determination to further the close collaboration of international issues, to increase efforts for elimination of the nuclear threat, and to establish a universal system of international peace and security.

The heads of the two governments emphasized the special significance of the Soviet-American Washington summit in December 1987 and of the adoption of the treaty between the Soviet Union and the United States on elimination of intermediate nuclear missiles.

A hope was expressed that the new prospective Moscow meeting between the leaders of the USA and the USSR would allow to obtain further progress on the path towards limitation and elimination of nuclear arsenals, and first of all, of strategic offensive weapons.

In order to lower the level of military confrontation, and for the sake of disarmament, consolidation of confidence and good-neighbourly relations between European states, Poland and the Soviet Union, along with other Warsaw-Treaty member-states, will seek with determination to considerably reduce armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals.

The sides stressed the importance of the proposals included in the Jaruzelski plan, implementation of which would encourage improvement of military and political situation on the European Continent. The Soviet side re-affirmed its support for the Polish initiative.

The Polish and Soviet Government heads said that inviolability of the territorial and political realities as shaped on the continent as a result of the Second World War and post-war developments was an unalterable conditions of preservation of lasting peace in Europe.

In the course of the talks the sides emphasized their determination to furtehr consolidate the unity and cohesion of socialist community countries, to develop all-round cooperation between them, and to deepen collaboration on the international arena for the sake of consolidation of universal peace and security.

Messner, Ryzhkov on Talks

LD061848 Warsaw Television Service in Polish 1730 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Interview with Zbigniew Messner, chairman of the Polish Council of Ministers, and Nikolay Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, by correspondent Witold Stefanowicz in Moscow; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Stefanowicz] Immediately after the signing of the documents on Polish-Soviet cooperation, I asked the Soviet and Polish premiers to comment. Prime Minister, how do you evaluate the talks and meetings you attended in Moscow today?

[Messner] Very highly. First of all, I must say that I was received by Mikhail Gorbachev, secretary general of the CPSU Central Committee, and during the meeting I had the opportunity to hear and voice many very important comments connected with relations between our countries and international topics. Secondly, our working meetings with Comrade Ryzhkov had as their aim in a way, to sum up the talks held so far, against the background of realization of the decisions made regarding relations between our countries, mainly in the economic sphere. We also discussed matters of culture, science and technology, and widely understood cooperation, and those fundamental issues that are linked with the coming 5-year period.

[Stefanowicz] I asked Premier Ryzhkov to evaluate both today's talks and the state and prospects of Polish-Soviet economic cooperation and cooperation in other spheres.

[Ryzhkov in Russian with superimposed Polish translation] We began our talks early today. I think this meeting is very necessary and very timely. We should meet more often. Our mutual economic relations are evaluated positively by us. We think that a lot has been done in recent years, and the beginning of the talks today proved that definite progress has been achieved and that we should march along this path. We are coming to a conclusion that both sides have great potential capabilities that have to be worked on. The most important thing is that we have a political will to do this. The political relations between our countries allow one to think that we can develop our economies and cooperation, and that it is our duty.

Ryzhkov Speaks at Luncheon

PM071425 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 7 Apr 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report of speech by N.I. Ryzhkov at 6 April luncheon for visiting Polish Council of Ministers Chairman Z. Messner under the general heading: "In an Atmosphere of Mutual Understanding"]

[Text] We assess the working visit by the chairman of the Polish Council of Ministers and the talks begun today as extremely fruitful, N.I. Ryzhkov said. I would like to express satisfaction at the atmosphere of comradeship, trust, mutual understanding, and unity of views in which they are being held.

Our party and the entire Soviet people value the good relations with fraternal Poland, and that is why every new step that strengthens our ties of friendship is met with unanimous public support in the Soviet Union. The alliance, cooperation, and friendship between the Soviet Union and Poland is an immensely important factor both for the stable development of our two countries along the paths they have chosen, and for the stability of their international positions. This is attested not merely by the lessons of history but by the realities of our time and the responsible tasks which we have jointly to resolve.

A new long-term boost has been given to the development of Soviet-Polish relations by the meetings between Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and Wojciech Jaruzelski. We are sure that this summer's official friendly visit to Poland by the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee will be an important stimulus to

even more active collaboration between our countries in all spheres of cooperation, as defined by the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the 10th PZPR Congress.

We are fully justified in talking about Soviet-Polish ties having reached a new, higher level. It is not so much a question of quantitative indicators—although they are very impressive—as of the new content of bilateral relations and the transition to more effective forms of collaboration.

The joint and committed search for ideal solutions in improving cooperation, the genuine equality of rights and reciprocal liability of the sides, and mutual advantage in economic ties are important features of the development of Soviet-Polish relations today. The fact that the fundamental goals and avenues of restructuring in the USSR and of socialist renewal in Poland largely coincide is an objective basis for their new qualitative content. That is why one of our main tasks is to effectively pool efforts in order to successfully fulfill the plans outlined by the CPSU and the PZPR for accelerating our countries' socioeconomic development and improving the efficiency of social production and the material and cultural living standard of our peoples.

Direct production ties and new, progressive forms of cooperation are called upon to play an ever-growing role in collaboration and in ensuring the complementarity of the Soviet and Polish economies. There are examples of this cooperation between Soviet and Polish enterprises which has made it possible through joint efforts to take a step forward along the road of creating certain types of advanced technological equipment. However, we cannot fail to admit that both sides are still making poor use of existing possibilities—the great production, scientific, and technical potential they have at their disposal. A legal and financial mechanism for implementing direct cooperation between enterprises and collectives of scientists has not been developed in time, and in a number of cases, the principle of reciprocal economic advantage has not been observed. The questions of deepening specialization and production sharing require constant attention and, above all, practical solutions. But currently we are dissatisfied with the state of affairs in this area. It is necessary, as the saying goes, to roll up our sleeves and sharply step up joint work in further developing new forms of cooperation and jointly finding mutually acceptable solutions. The development of mechanisms for economic cooperation between our countries within the framework of direct ties must be completed within a very short period.

If we turn to the long-term prospects for Soviet-polish cooperation and the deepening of national economic integration, the main landmarks here should be posted by the concept of economic, scientific, and technical cooperation between the USSR and Poland for 15-20 years hence. This will be an organic part of the future collective concept of the international socialist division of labor between the CEMA countries up to the year 2005.

Questions of international policy, particularly European security, traditionally occupy an exceptionally important place in Soviet-Polish relations, N.I. Ryzhkov continued. Our talks have reaffirmed the complete coincidence of views in our assessment of the current international situation, and the resolve of the Soviet Union and Poland to cooperate closely with other fraternal socialist countries in building up efforts to eradicate the nuclear threat and strengthen peace and security in Europe and worldwide.

We recently celebrated the 2d anniversary of the Soviet Union's proposal of a program for the phased elimination of mass destruction weaponry by the end of this century. This bold and far-reaching program vividly demonstrated the new political thinking, which is free from ossified stereotypes and dogmas and reflects the urgent requirements of our interlinked and interdependent world.

The realistic nature of this program was convincingly reaffirmed by the signing of the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles, which marked the start of practical disarmament. The world public received with satisfaction the report on the new meeting between the top leaders of the Soviet Union and the United States slated for the end of May, pinning on it hopes of a radical improvement in Soviet-U.S. relations and the achievement of an agreement on a 50-percent cut in strategic offensive weapons while observing the ABM Treaty and not withdrawing from it for an agreed period. The Soviet side is firmly resolved to complete preparations for such an agreement in good time.

We attach special importance to the European side of our foreign policy activity. Ensuring a healthy political climate and constructive cooperation in our "common European home" is impossible without a reciprocal respectful attitude toward the realities existing within Europe as a result of World War II and reinforced by well-known multilateral and bilateral documents. This has been and continues to be the guarantee of peace in Europe.

We are doing everything to lower the level of military confrontation, strengthen trust, and provide scope for equal and mutually advantageous cooperation on the continent without any discrimination or restrictions. The foreign policy initiatives of the Warsaw Pact states are aimed in this direction.

The Soviet Union makes a high assessment of Poland's weighty contribution to strengthening security in Europe. These goals are served by the comprehensive

arms-reduction and confidence-building program in central Europe—known as the "Jaruzelski Plan" and widely supported. Poland's role in the implementation of the socialist community countries' coordinated foreign policy and its contribution to improving the activity of the Warsaw Pact and the CEMA is generally recognized.

Among the other problems that require the European countries to pool efforts in their own common interest, environmental protection is becoming increasingly topical. That is why we attach great importance to developing cooperation with Poland in this sphere.

The current Soviet-Polish meeting is taking place in a period of the revolutionary restructuring of Soviet society that is crucial for our country. Our party, with the support of the entire people, is actively tackling the resolution of urgent social and economic problems—the housing and food problems, and the provision of goods and services to the population. Our society is liberating itself from all that used to shackle it and prevent it from fully realizing the potential of socialism. Radical economic reform—the main lever for large-scale transformations—is gathering speed. All these real changes and improvements are taking place under the conditions of a resolute shift toward democratization and glasnost. Vigorously and purposefully implementing the strategy and tactics of restructuring, our Communist Party is reviving the Leninist practice of socialist society—the most humane and the fairest society of all.

Along the way we will have an enormous amount of work to do: We will have to find the necessary solutions to complex problems, learn to do many things in a new way, and relearn many other things. But the restructuring process is irreversible. There is no alternative to it because the future and socialism—as envisaged by Lenin—are on its side.

We see Polish Communists and the working people of fraternal Poland as our comrades-in-arms in renewing socialist society and implementing restructuring, and we sincerely wish them great successes in implementing the program for the acceleration of their country's socioeconomic development and in resolving the complex problems facing Polish society.

In conclusion N.I. Ryzhkov wished the Polish friends new creative strength, good health, and successes in their party and state activity for the good of People's Poland.

May the friendship and fraternal cooperation between the Soviet Union and Poland and between the Soviet and Polish peoples steadily strengthen!

Local Trade Between Ukraine, Poland Set Up

AU280812 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 16 Mar 88 p 3

[Report by RATAU correspondent N. Voronchenko: "Signing an Accord"]

[Text] Representatives of Warsaw trade circles have ended their visit to the Sumy "Promtovary" association by signing an accord on barter trade in consumer goods. Soviet and Polish customers will shortly receive a wide range of various commodities for household and everyday use, clothing, perfumery, fabrics, and jewelry.

"Direct contacts with the Polish partners began with our trip to that fraternal country," N.P. Demyanets, general director of the Sumy association, said. "We visited Warsaw and Poznan, familiarized ourselves with the organization of trade, and inspected a number of light industry enterprises. The list of goods we selected includes fashion clothing, footwear, garments, knitwear, and cosmetics. Now we are hosting our Polish friends. They inspected a permanent consumer goods show and large city enterprises."

"We are primarily interested in articles for gardening purposes, household equipment, and commodities," J. Baczynski, general director of the "Konsumi" firm in Warsaw, said. "We will be glad to buy portable television sets, enamel paints, toys, and vacuum cleaners."

A.A. Sinyak, chief of the Import-Export Operations Department in the "Ukrinvalyuttorg" trust, who was present at the ceremony for the signing of the accord, said that similar direct contacts with partners abroad had already been established by a number of enterprises and organizations in the Ukraine. There is successful barter trade with firms in the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Hungarian People's Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Socialist Republic of Romania, the CSSR, and other countries.

Polish Group Studies Propaganda Experience

AU301033 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 24 Mar 88 p 4

[RATAU report: "A Conversation in the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee"]

[Text] A delegation of PZPR functionaries headed by S. Tabkowski, Propaganda Department chief in the PZPR Central Committee, arrived in Kiev on 23 March. The objective of the delegation was to study in the USSR party experience in leading the mass media under the conditions of restructuring. The delegation was received by Yu.N. Yelchenko, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member and secretary.

During a warm and friendly conversation, the visitors were briefed on the changes taking place in all spheres of the republic's life. It was noted that in the Ukraine, like all over the country, a radical economic reform was in progress, the processes of democratization and glasnost were developing, and the social activity of the working people was rising. Extensive preparations for the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference are going on. The practice of ideological and educational work, and its new forms and methods responding to the directives of the the February (1988) CPSU Central Committee plenum were discussed.

Yu.N. Yelchenko gave an account of the republic's press, television and radio activity, of their role in restructuring, and of new approaches gaining a firm hold in party leadership over the mass media. Reference was made to examples of fruitful contacts between editorial boards of republic-level and local press organs and Polish journalists. The importance of enhancing and encouraging such contacts was noted. S. Tabkowski reported on socioeconomic changes taking place in the Polish People's Republic in accordance with the 10th PZPR Congress decisions, and on the progress made in implementing the provisions of the Declaration on Soviet-Polish cooperation in the field of ideology, science, and culture.

Participating in the conversation were: L.M. Kravchuk, Propaganda and Agitation Department chief in the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee; V.V. Oros, instructor in the Propaganda Department of the CPSU Central Committee; and R. Polkowski, Polish consul general in Kiev.

Ukrainian Minister of Culture Visits Poland
AU311059 Kiev RADYANSKA UKRAINA in Ukrainian 27 Mar 88 p 3

[RATAU report: "Deepening Ukrainian-Polish Cultural Relations"]

[Excerpts] As a result of the 6-day visit paid by a delegation of Ukrainian SSR cultural workers headed by Yu.A. Olenenko, the republic's minister of culture, to the Polish People's Republic, a protocol was signed on direct cooperation between the Kyyivkontsert organization and the Polish "Pagart" concert tours agency. [passage omitted]

The results of the visit to the Polish People's Republic were also reviewed at a press conference held in Warsaw for representatives of the Polish press, television, and radio. Prospects for cultural cooperation between the Polish People's Republic and the Ukrainian SSR were elucidated at the conference. The delegation members said that the Days of People's Poland would be celebrated in the Ukraine in 1989, and the traditional Soviet Union Days in Poland would be represented by the Soviet Ukraine in 1990. Provisions have been made for regular exchanges in exhibitions, for joint festivals and competitions, and for the invigorated publication of translations from Ukrainian and Polish literature. The Ukrainian delegation visiting the Ukraine, Yu.A. Olenenko said, also attracted the attention of Western journalists accredited in Poland.

The delegation of Ukrainian SSR cultural workers was received by A. Wasilewski, PZPR Central Committee secretary.

Yazov Greets Karpati on Hungary's Liberation Day
PM071307 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Apr 88 Second Edition p 1

[USSR defense minister's undated greetings message to Hungarian counterpart on Hungarian liberation anniversary]

[Text] To Comrade Colonel General F. Karpati, Hungarian minister of defense

Esteemed Comrade Minister!

Personally and on behalf of the USSR Armed Forces, I cordially congratulate you and all Hungarian servicemen on the 43d anniversary of Hungary's liberation from fascism.

We note with profound satisfaction that the relations of fraternal friendship and all-around cooperation which have taken shape between our peoples and armies are successfully developing and strengthening for the good of peace and socialism.

I wish you and all personnel of the Hungarian People's Army new achievements in strengthening the defense capability of the Hungarian People's Republic.

With communist greetings,

Army General D. Yazov, USSR minister of defense.

Czech Paper Denies Parallel of 1968, Perestroyka
PM061410 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Apr 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Article in RUDE PRAVO"]

[Text] Prague, 5 Apr—The newspaper RUDE PRAVO today devotes an editorial article to demonstrating the true intentions of the representatives of right-wing forces in the CSSR in 1968 and exposing their present attempts to draw a parallel between the Czechoslovak events of 20 years ago and the restructuring now taking place in the Soviet Union.

Seik, Mlinarz, Dubcek, and other representatives of right-wing forces of the period, the newspaper writes, "demonstrate" in various statements that are eagerly disseminated by Western propaganda that there are supposedly "similarities" between the process of Czechoslovakia's development since January 1968 and restructuring in the USSR, and that "Soviet restructuring rehabilitated the reformist efforts in Czechoslovakia in 1968." In order to lend weight to their assertions, they cite the document "CPCZ Program of Action," adopted at the CPCZ Central Committee April (1968) Plenum.

The CPCZ program of action, the article points out, was adopted during a period when right-wing forces in the then party leadership had betrayed the political course

elaborated by the CPCZ Central Committee January plenum, distorted it, and endowed it with revisionist and antisocialist content. They wanted to use an official document as cover for their liquidationist activity.

At the time of the adoption of this program, numerous negative trends were manifested. Right-wing and revisionist forces became active in the party, the mass media, and public organizations; petit bourgeois forces and remnants of the bourgeois class and its supporters raised their heads. Despite all this, the CPCZ program of action emphasized the incorrect proposition on the almost complete unity of society, failed to point out the danger of the activation of antisocialist forces, and did not set the task of combatting them.

In the program of action, instead of a clear definition of the party's leading political role, the results of the victory of February 1948, as a result of which the CPCZ became the ruling party as representative of the working class, were jeopardized.

As for the economy, the program took as the basic principles of the new economic model the spontaneous influence of market mechanisms as the determining factor in creating national economic proportions and prices, and proclaimed the separation of the economic sphere from the state and the autonomy of producers as owners of the means of production. It was proposed to replace central planning with a "process of mutual confrontation and coordination of interests of different population groups."

The CPCZ program of action formulated a number of correct slogans and tasks, too. But the resolution of concrete problems meant in practice a departure from socialist building. At the same time, representatives of right-wing forces regarded the "Program of Action" as merely an episode along the path to seizing power in the party and society. At that time they were preparing other documents, such as the counterrevolutionary pamphlet "2,000 Words."

The right-wing forces' policy in spring 1968 was basically in contradiction to the program of action. This policy, as is stressed in the document "Lessons of the Crisis Development in the CPCZ and Society After the 13th CPCZ Congress," was a policy of liquidating the party as society's leading force, a policy of destroying the socialist political system and expanding nationalism and anti-Sovietism.

There is no connection, no similarity between the restructuring being implemented by the CPSU and our party and the policy of right-wing forces in the crisis period, RUDE PRAVO stresses. The aim of the right-wing forces was to dismantle socialism. Restructuring is a revolutionary process whose aim is the development of socialism, development of the behests of Great October and Victorious February, and attainment of new results along the path of socialist building.

Constructing various parallels between these two processes only serves the personal interests of certain bankrupt politicians. As in the crisis years, they seek to persuade the international public and our people that the policy they pursued was socialist and that we must return to it.

Their efforts are in vain. The CPCZ and our society have entered an important period, a turning point, the period of restructuring, with a clear aim and program, expressed in the decisions of the 17th CPCZ Congress and the Central Committee December (1987) Plenum. Our party, like the CPSU, seeks to creatively develop Leninist theory and practice and improve and enhance the quality of socialism, so as to allow the socialist system to demonstrate its potential and advantages in full. Nobody will deflect us from this path, RUDE PRAVO stresses.

Brochure Published on Gorbachev SFRY Visit

LD062320 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 6 Apr 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] A brochure on the 14-18 March 1988 visit of M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee to the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has been published by the Politicheskaya Literatura publishing house of the CPSU Central Committee. The anthology includes documents and materials about the visit and photographs of the meetings and conversations on Yugoslav soil. The brochure has been printed in the Krasnyy Proletariy Order of Lenin printing works.

Latin America & Caribbean

Latest Round of Sandinist-Contra Talks Viewed

PM061255 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Apr 88 Second Edition p 7

[Political observer Vitaliy Korionov's "Point of View": "A Difficult Path"]

[Text] Another round of talks between representatives of the Managua government and the contras has ended in the Nicaraguan settlement of Sapoa. Agreement was reached on determining the zones where contra formations will be concentrated during talks on the final cease-fire. The movement along the path to peace in Central America continues.

This is a difficult path. Let us recall: No sooner had Nicaragua's people taken their destinies in their own hands than the United States launched an undeclared war against them. Attempts were made to stifle the Nicaraguans by starvation. The financial noose was being drawn tighter. Harbors were mined. The CIA's subversive mechanism was set in motion. Honduras was turned into a military springboard. Finally, an army of mercenaries in the thousands was brought into play.

But everything was in vain.... Of course, the struggle is far from over. News has only just come in that the contras have perpetrated an armed attack against Coral Settlement in Chontales: Four civilians have been killed and two abducted. Surely this criminal action by the U.S. mercenaries is nothing but an attempt to wreck the cease-fire agreement?

Even so, however, I believe that there are already grounds for saying that the people's regime has survived the most critical stage. Political opposition is coming to replace military confrontation.

The Latin Americans want to determine their own fate. Tangible proof of this can be seen in Cuba's staunchness, the Nicaraguan people's selfless devotion, the impulses for freedom in El Salvador, Panama's resistance, and the awareness and activity of the Contadora Group and the Support Group.

The Nicaraguan people have suffered enormous human and material losses. But they have made these sacrifices for the sake of freedom and are courageously upholding their just cause. The long-suffering nation needs peace and an opportunity to heal its wounds.

Generous U.S. aid did not ensure the mercenaries' victory on which Washington was banking. Some U.S. politicians now claim that the U.S. Congress, by blocking the multimillion dollar flow of aid to the contras, dealt the latter "a stab in the back." But such claims cannot draw attention away from the main fact: The Nicaraguan people did not back the contras. They suffered mounting losses, both military and political. Therefore, there is no other practical way out, apart from peaceful and constructive talks.

But the most important point, in my view, is that the world is becoming increasingly aware of a simple but very important truth: The fires of regional armed conflicts must be extinguished. The most correct way is via national reconciliation.

Nonetheless, Washington does not intend to accept the contras' involvement in the process of peaceful life. It is repeated time and again that the administration maintains its "100 percent" support for those whom it dubs "freedom fighters." On the day before yesterday, the U.S. House of Representatives appropriated $48 million for "humanitarian aid" to the contras. But the future does not belong to this policy.

Contra Leaders Use 'Procrastination Tactics'

LD062000 Moscow TASS in English 1311 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Managua April 6 TASS—The procrastination tactics employed by the Nicaraguan counter-revolutionary chiefs is a source of a danger of frustration of the temporary ceasefire agreement signed in Sapoa between the Nicaraguan Government and the contras. The leaders of the so-called "Nicaraguan Democratic Resistance" have already foiled the latest round of direct talks with the Managua government scheduled for April 6. Yesterday the contras used a number of gimmicks to protract the talks and made unacceptable demands to the Government of the Republic so as to get a pretext for the refusal to participate in the talks.

Special technical commissions designed to determine the zones of ceasefire within the framework of the temporary agreement started work in Sapoa last Monday. Yet the sides have not reached unanimity and decided to carry on the meeting.

As newsmen were told by Joaquin Cuadra, deputy defense minister, who heads the Nicaraguan commission in Sapoa, it is necessary to achieve as soon as possible, a specific agreement on the problem of putting an end to the counter-revolutionary actions in the country. He condemned the decision of the U.S. Congress on the granting of new financial aid to the Congress [as received] and noted that this decision legalizes the continuation of the interventionist policy and interference in the Republic's home affairs from the USA.

The Nicaraguan Government and the contra leaders have reached agreement on holding the next round of direct talks, which were originally to start on April 6, from April 12 to 15 in Managua

Havana April 6 TASS—The Nicaraguan Government demonstrates its firm commitment to peace. It is making every effort for the speediest signing of an agreement with the contras on ultimate ceasefire, newsmen were told last Tuesday by Nicaragua's Minister of Home Affairs Tomas Borge during his brief stopover in Havana en route to Uruguay where he is going on an official visit.

The Nicaraguan Government, Tomas Borge noted, demonstrates its political will and flexibility, yet the contras take an obstructionist stand which is seen, in particular, from their actions aimed at putting off the new round of talks at summit level for signing an agreement on ultimate ceasefire. The Nicaraguan minister noted that this conduct by the chiefs of the counter-revolutionary gangs is determined by the policy vis-a-vis Nicaragua which is pursued by official Washington banking on a sharpening of the armed conflict in that country and building up tensions in the region as a whole.

Buenos Aires April 6 TASS—An open letter addressed to the U.S. Administration and Congress expressing profound concern about the extremely tense situation in Central America was signed by prominent Argentine public figures. The letter says that the U.S. Administration's policy vis-a-vis that region had become a serious obstacle in the way to peace there. Systematic actions to block the peace initiatives, which were put forward by the Latin American countries, the preference which the U.S. Administration gives, in violation of the basic

norms of international coexistence, to armed aggression against Nicaragua—the sole way towards a "settlement" of the crisis—is a threat to the right of all peoples of the continent to self-determination.

New York April 6 TASS—The Reagan administration is viewing the plans for toughening the trade embargo against Nicaragua, which was imposed almost four years ago. This has been learnt by the newspaper THE NEW YORK TIMES from officials in the administration and the Congress. It is planned, in particular, to ban the import of such staple Nicaraguan export items as coffee and shrimp.

The toughening of the trade embargo shall be viewed as Washington's another [as received] subversive political action against Managua. Even THE NEW YORK TIMES drew attention to the fact that the new punitive measures are being examined at a time when the "Nicaraguan Government is holding talks with the contras on a peaceful settlement of the conflict."

Nicaraguan Interior Minister on Peace Efforts

LD062301 Moscow TASS in English 1421 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Havana April 6 TASS—The Nicaraguan Government is demonstrating its striving for peace. It is sparing no effort for signing an agreement with the contras on final ceasefire as soon as possible. This was stated here Tuesday by Tomas Borge, minister of the internal affairs of Nicaragua, who made a short stop-over in Havana on his way to Uruguay where he was going for an official visit.

Tomas Borge said that the Nicaraguan Government was demonstrating its political will and flexibility. However, the contras are holding a non-constructive stand, which follows, among other things, from their attempt to postpone a new round of talks on a summit level scheduled for March 12 where a final ceasefire agreement was supposed to be signed. The Nicaraguan minister said that this posture of the heads of counterrevolutionary gangs was the result of the pressure brought to bear on them by Washington which counts on the kindling of the armed conflict.

Tomas Borge pointed out that the Nicaraguan Government enjoyed unconditional support of the people. The country will never return to the past and will never yield to U.S. diktat. Nicaraguans decide their destiny by themselves, Borge stated.

U.S. Ready To Resume Aid Shipments to Contras

LD062104 Moscow TASS in English 1524 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Washington March 6 TASS—TASS correspondent Oleg Polyakovskiy reports:

Alan Woods, director of the U.S. Agency for International Development, has announced that his agency was ready to begin shipments to the contras within the framework of the scheme to supply humanitarian aid to them. The bill on the resumption of U.S. support for Nicaragua's anti-government forces was adopted by the U.S. Congress last week and signed by President Reagan.

Under the new law, 17.7 million dollars were set aside for support to the contras. It does not envisage military aid as was pressed by the Reagan administration and Republic Party representatives in Congress. But many senators and congressmen, who voted against new shipments of food, clothing, medicines and analogous equipment of the contras, expressed apprehensions that it could become a prologue to the resumption of military aid to the anti-government formations.

These apprehensions were increased by the promise given to the White House by House Speaker James Wright. He pledged not to impede a "fair" consideration of the request for military supplies in case the peace talks in Nicaragua falter. Senator Alan Cranston warned that supporter of military aid to the contras saw the current aid package as a means to support their military forces until fighting resumes.

The aid package, worked out under Wright's guidance, assigns the task of its shipment to the Agency of International Development. Earlier, the supply of the contras was in charge with the CIA. On Tuesday, during the meeting with reporters, Alan Woods, director of that agency, said that the implementation of this task required the cooperation of the Sandinist Government. Earlier, however, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said his country could not agree to any aid to the contras since this would mean legitimizing the United States' interventionist policy. This aid is unlawful since the United States has not right to decide what the Nicaraguan Government should be, he said.

Latin American Economic Group Supports Panama

PM070851 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Apr 88 Second Edition p 1

[S. Svistunov "Correspondent's Report": "Solidarity Accord"]

[Text] Lima—The sixth extraordinary session of the Latin American Economic System (SELA) Council, which ended in the Venezuelan capital, expressed full solidarity with the people of Panama. Washington's economic aggression against Panama, the session participants concluded, "affects the autonomy and threatens the economic security of this member of the organization." A decision was adopted demanding of the United States that it immediately end the economic blockade of Panama, and affirming the sovereign right of Latin American and Caribbean countries to determine their own destiny.

"We declare to those who, from the lofty status of a great power with an interest in the canal, want to interfere in Panama's internal affairs: The only thing they can and must do is return the canal to Panama, and give back to Latin America its future," Peru's Foreign Minister Allan Wagner declared from the session's rostrum.

The SELA (the latest session was attended by representatives of 23 countries from the total of 26 members of the organization) pointed out the "need to strictly implement the Panama Canal treaties signed in 1977" and called on the United States to respect these documents. It was also decided to give Panama financial and other material aid. With a view to holding consultations to concretize the program of economic support for Panama, Uruguay's Carlos Perez del Castillo, head of the SELA Permanent Secretariat, will leave on a tour of the region next week.

Panama's Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia expressed profound satisfaction with the results of the conference which produced a "convincing demonstration of the support given by Latin America and the Caribbean to Panama's struggle."

The Permanent Conference of Latin American and Caribbean Political Parties, sitting in Rio de Janeiro, also issued a condemnation of the U.S. interventionist actions against Panama. It approved an extensive plan for "mobilization of political parties and governments in the region" to work on organizing a dialogue between Panama's opposition and ruling circles with a view to settling the domestic political crisis.

Political & Social

Gromyko Presents Awards, Hails Recipients

PM070937 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Apr 88 Second Edition pp 1-2

[TASS report: "Awards to Heroes"]

[Text] A.A. Gromyko presented a group of heroes with the motherland's highest awards in the Kremlin 1 April.

Orders of Lenin and "Gold Star" medals were presented to Heroes of the Soviet Union Private S.V. Igolchenko, Captain N.N. Lukashov, and Lieutenant Colonel A.M. Raylyan.

Orders of Lenin and "Hammer and Sickle" gold stars were presented to Heroes of Socialist Labor I.A. Bumbur, chairman of the Latvian SSR's "Uzvara" Fishing Kolkhoz Board; F.M. Golubev, leader of a consolidated timber procurement team at the Karapchanskiy Timber Procurement Establishment of the "Ust-Ilimskiy Lesopromyshlennyy Kompleks" Production Association under the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry; L.A. Ilin, vice president of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences and director of the USSR Ministry of Health Institute of Biophysics; USSR People's Artist Ye.Ye. Nesterenko, soloist of the USSR State Academy Bolshoy Theater; V.S. Savelyev, full member of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences and head of department at the N.I. Pirogov No 2 Medical Institute in Moscow; and USSR People's Artist R.G. Chkhikvadze, artiste with Tbilisi's Sh. Rustaveli State Academy Drama Theater.

Addressing the recipients of the awards, A.A. Gromyko said:

Today's ceremony in the Kremlin Hall is one of those when a private in the reserve, a captain and a lieutenant colonel, a Latvian kolkhoz chairman and a team leader from a timber procurement establishment in the Siberian taiga, academician physicians, and famous artists stand shoulder to shoulder in one rank.

They differ in their military ranks and their vocations, but they are equals in glory. The recipients of the awards are all sons of the fatherland who are equally devoted to it in military labor and in daily painstaking work with total dedication.

Three of the recipients are Heroes of the Soviet Union, each one of whom was presented with the "Gold Star" medal and the Order of Lenin. They are: recently demobilized Pvt Sergey Viktorovich Igolchenko, Capt Nikolay Nikolayevich Lukashov, and Lt Col Aleksandr Maksimovich Raylyan.

Henceforth these internationalist servicemen belong to the cohort of heroes of the Soviet Union who have been awarded the country's supreme award for personal courage and skillful actions in complex combat conditions while rendering assistance to friendly Afghanistan.

Today we praise these representatives of the Soviet Armed Forces. They have honorably performed and are still performing their duty in Afghanistan, displaying selflessness, their military training, and extraordinary skills in a complex and difficult situation.

Orders of Lenin and "Hammer and Sickle" gold stars were presented to six Heroes of Socialist Labor—Ilgonis Adolfovich Bumbur, Fedor Matveyevich Golubev, Leonid Andreyevich Ilin, Yevgeniy Yevgenyevich Nesterenko, Viktor Sergeyevich Savelyev, and Ramaz Grigoryevich Chkhikvadze.

Today we speak with great respect of Ilgonis Adolfovich Bumbur, chairman of the "Uzvara" Fishing Kolkhoz Board. Fisherman and Communist, for almost 30 years now he has continuously headed a harmonious and well-organized collective in a multisector economic unit with a powerful fish-processing base. A man distinguished by energy and the ability to look into the future.

And the results are there to be seen! They take the form of steady growth in the kolkhoz' profitability and revenues. Moreover, the kolkhoz led by Comrade Bumbur is not only becoming stronger and richer itself but is also helping the resort city of Yurmala to develop. We need more kolkhozes like it!

Siberian worker Fedor Matveyevich Golubev stands next to the kolkhoz member from Latvia. For over 25 years now he has been an outstanding timber feller. The indicators of the team he heads are the highest among timber procurers in the Soviet Union. But the greatest pleasure is perhaps caused by the knowledge that this man and his team are not only timber fellers but also innovators who fight for the protection of the environment. The last phase of their work is reforestation. In other words, wherever these people have been, they have left behind both timber procured for the state and the shoots of a new forest. Honor and glory to Fedor Matveyevich Golubev's team!

As for Academicians Leonid Andreyevich Ilin and Viktor Sergeyevich Savelyev, one can simply say: Each one of them is a major specialist and founder of his own scientific-practical school. One of them, Ilin, in radiation medicine, the other, Savelyev, in cardiovascular surgery. The minds, experience, and hands of these physicians and scientists and of their pupils have restored normal life to many, many people. For this alone they deserve nationwide gratitude.

The names of artists Yevgeniy Yevgenyevich Nesterenko and Ramaz Grigoryevich Chkhikvadze are famous well beyond their own theaters, Moscow's Bolshoy and Tbilisi's Shota Rustaveli Drama Theater. It would be no exaggeration to say that these figures from the world of the arts are known in many countries of the globe. This great fame of the artists is the result of labor, labor, and again labor, of persistent labor over many years.

I ardently congratulate you all, dear comrades, on the state awards and supreme titles of distinction. I do this on behalf of the party Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the Soviet Government. I convey to you congratulations from Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

May the heroes' gold stars give you a new charge of energy. May they give you strength to live and work for further successes for the benefit of our motherland and our people.

Please convey warmest wishes to your families, relatives, and friends.

In their brief speeches in reply all the award recipients expressed ardent thanks to the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the Soviet Government for these supreme awards from the motherland.

The award presentation was attended by P.N. Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; T.N. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; and other officials.

Decree on Naming Square After Brezhnev Annulled
LD070901 Alma-Ata Domestic Service in Kazakh 2300 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the USSR Council of Ministers support the proposal of the workers with regard to abolishing the name of the square named after Brezhnev in the city of Alma-Ata.

Part two of the decree of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the USSR Council of Ministers, passed on 18 November 1982, which refers to naming one of the new squares in the city of Alma-Ata after Brezhnev, has been annulled.

Arbatov on Significance of April 1985 Plenum
LD070335 Moscow In English to North America 2200 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] [Announcer] It's 3 years this month since the Communist Party Central Committee held a full-scale meeting at which Mikhail Gorbachev, who had been elected general secretary in March that same year made a report. The meeting yielded the concept of restructuring of new political thinking and new approaches to domestic and international problems. Our reporter has approached a participant in that full-scale meeting, Georgiy Arbatov, who is a member of the Party Central Committee and a parliamentarian. Georgiy Arbatov, who will soon turn 65, is also a leading expert on Soviet-American relations a member of the USSR Academy of Sciences and head of the Institute of the United States and Canada. Now that 3 years have passed since the April full-scale meeting of the party Central Committee, how would you assess its significance? A question to Georgiy Arbatov.

[Arbatov in Russian fading into English translation] I think that full-scale meeting was of great importance since it became a landmark and a turning point in Soviet history. The years prior to the meeting had been marked with phenomena that later came to be termed as stagnation. After the meeting this country entered an entirely new stage of historic development which is characterized by two words that have become universally understandable, perestroyka and glasnost. In his report to the meeting Mikhail Gorbachev outlined the main directions to which new methods of work should be applied. Serious changes have taken place in this country during the past 3 years. They are unprecedented in terms of the scale of revolutionary reform, the novelty of approaches, and the degree of openness, bold and, I'd even say, ruthless to the nation's history.

Yet, without this it would be impossible to overcome many barriers impending [as heard] the onward movement, or to turn a new page in Soviet history.

[Announcer] What kind of impact have these changes had on the Soviet Union's foreign policy?

[Arbatov] I'd start by pointing to the immense international importance of our domestic policy. In my opinion our internal changes are at least no less important than our foreign political initiatives. The stagnation phenomena and difficulties in this country's economic, social, political, and intellectual life give rise on the part of some (?ruinous factions) in the United States to illusory hopes that socialism has entered an era of depression. It is to hopes of this kind that one could attribute many of the goals the Reagan administration pursued at the early stage of its term of office. Since then the situation has been changing in many ways. The process of restructuring, renewal, and democratization has (?compelled) its opponents to take a new look at socialism and recognize the strength and potential of the socialist system.

This has been urging the West to abandon its long-cherished policy of confrontation. This means restructuring makes a weighty contribution to the work for peace.

[Announcer] I believe many of this country's achievements should be attributed to Soviet society's openness, which was often restricted in the past.

[Arbatov] The difficulties that kept piling up were related not only to individual malpractices but also to inertia in this country's development whereby in passing on from one historical stage to another our society took along the burden of former difficulties with it. And although considerable efforts were made to change the situation for the better, people still were reluctant to challenge the problems they met with, or even discuss them openly. And that played into the hands of the opponents of lesser tension and helped them paint the Soviet Union as a hostile country posing a threat to others.

We've deprived the opponents of socialism of the opportunities to conduct further work in that direction. The world has begun tearing down the entire infrastructure of the Cold War. The Western media have been describing the destruction of stereotypes of hostility as Gorbachev's secret weapon. Of course there is nothing secret about it. But this so-called weapon indeed has an immense potential inasmuch as one couldn't possibly imagine the arms race without having the Soviet Union as an enemy or as a source of threat. Meanwhile, serious and evidently longterm changes have taken place.

KOMMUNIST Chief Editor on Democratization

AU300920 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 25 Mar 88 p 6

[Interview with Naily Bikkenin, chief editor of KOMMUNIST, by Lubor Kazda and Vladimir Jancura, Moscow correspondents of RUDE PRAVO and Bratislava PRAVDA: "Democratization Is Not Self-Serving"; date and place not given—first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] The 19th All-Union CPSU Conference will begin in Moscow at the end of June. The preparations for the conference are increasingly influencing the atmosphere in Soviet society and, understandably, eliciting increasing interest at home and abroad. We have discussed the approaching conference and what is now going on in the USSR with Naily Bikkenin, chief editor of KOMMUNIST, the CPSU Central Committee's theoretical and political magazine.

[Correspondents] The main program of the conference is already known, the preparations are in full swing. What can be said already now, in advance, about the importance of these deliberations?

[Bikkenin] Party conferences have an important place in our party's history. There were conferences devoted to tactical issues, but also conferences with far-reaching conclusions and a long-term influence on the development of society. There is no doubt that the 19th all-union conference will be of decisive importance. The increasing number of letters reaching our editorial office in connection with the conference is clear evidence that people expect it to make important decisions for the further implementation of restructuring.

[Correspondents] Some time ago Mikhail Gorbachev stressed that the main issue here will be the development of socialist democracy. What do your readers' letters say about it?

[Bikkenin] What do people write? The overwhelming majority of them express support for the ideas of restructuring and stress that it is necessary to continue on the chosen path, that it is necessary to continue to democratize society and the party's life. They put forward specific proposals and suggestions, practical suggestions for measures which the conference should discuss—beginning with additions to the party Statutes all the way to changes in the new edition of the CPSU Program.

[Correspondents] What are the most frequent suggestions?

[Bikkenin] For example the idea about the need to create a democratic mechanism for the renewal of cadres, systematically bringing the best cadres into the party's managing bodies. It must be said that the CPSU Statutes contained certain similar principles limiting the length of time a person stays in the ranks of a managing body: It used to be the case that every regular election was to renew at least one-fourth of the CPSU Central Committee and its Presidium—now the Politburo—and that Presidium members are not, as a rule, elected for more than three terms of office. This also applied to lower-level party committees. The 23d party congress deleted these principles from the Statutes. Many letters state that it would be desirable to set age limits for key posts. Many Communists stress the need to return to the Leninist idea of the Central Control Commission, with which Lenin associated the duty of complete control at the center of the party, including the control of Politburo members and the general secretary. His idea was that the commission must consist, above all, of workers devoted to the party.

Many proposals are devoted to restructuring the structure of the party committees. They criticize the fact that the Central Committee actually copies the structure of ministries, that this leads directly to Central Committee departments and sections duplicating the functions of the state apparatus. Considerable attention is paid to the enrollment of new party members.

[Correspondents] What are the views about improving cadre work, placement in responsible posts?

[Bikkenin] People stress that there must be a natural, democratic selection of the best from the best. From the bottom to the top. So that a person's immediate work

collective, which knows him best, plays a correspondingly important role, rather than that being given a post depends on whether the person in question succeeds in making himself liked by some higher-up. When there is talk about the party, everything is directed at the need to create a mechanism that truly selects the ablest people for office, not to mention the elementary condition that such people must be honest and principled. To sum it up, it is obvious that we must think about how to eliminate any element of chance from the makeup of the party that might have considerable consequences later on.

[Correspondents] When you spoke about readers' attitudes, you said that the overwhelming majority is in favor of deepening socialist democracy. Are there also views to the contrary, then?

[Bikkenin] Yes, of course there are. We are experiencing a sharp break, turbulent changes; it would not be natural if all people were to receive them without question, in the same way. There are those who think that democracy, an open policy, harms our ideology. To this I would like to say that socialism and our ideology have grown from the ideals of work, justice, freedom, humaneness, and progress. Not out of fear, from cracking the whip over people's heads. If we want to strengthen socialism, we must develop precisely those things on which its roots are based. Restructuring cannot be realized without the aware, active involvement of millions of working people in the struggle for the great changes that the party is implementing. Of course, such activity cannot be achieved by decree, it cannot be ordered. Only by democratic means can our society achieve a situation in which every person feels that how the country continues to develop also depends on him, himself.

In recent years, unfortunately, we have come to realize that when awareness of sharing responsibility begins to wane, it is replaced by other phenomena—by apathy, indifference, by going into internal exile, and other negative features. Yes, democratic achievements, of course, already possess value for what they are but, for us, democratization is not a popular, self-serving purpose. It is an instrument, a road to the solution of key and urgent socioeconomic and educational tasks. The economy cannot be buoyed by purely economic levers alone. We simply need democratization as we need air; after all, our people went into the revolution under the banners of social justice and peace, with political slogans.

[Correspondents] It will soon be 3 years since the CPSU Central Committee April Plenum was held. Wherein do you see the specific aspects of Soviet developments since 1985?

[Bikkenin] Whoever follows our party documents will certainly have noted that our ideas of restructuring and the tasks connected with it have been naturally deepening and expanding as time has gone by, and might have even been corrected in some respects. The CPSU Central Committee April Plenum opened by stating that the rate of economic development had decreased, a fact obvious even to a noneconomist. Thus the first task was to boost the dynamism of economic development. This could be achieved only through a consistent switchover from an extensive to an intensive economy, this having been the most important factor causing us to lag behind several decades. Further, as I have already said, we convinced ourselves that the economy cannot be buoyed by purely economic methods, no matter how perfect they might be. It is necessary to democratize society. That was the reason for the CPSU Central Committee January 1987 Plenum, which formulated the tasks of democratization very emphatically and clearly, in a broad political context. And the third issue, as could have clearly been seen in connection with this year's CPSU Central Committee February Plenum, is the ideology of renewal, because we know that not even a single really important step in our country can be successfully carried out without a thorough ideological renewal in the Leninist spirit.

[Correspondents] You have mentioned possible amendments to the new edition of the CPSU Program, which, however, was adopted only fairly recently....

[Bikkenin] A considerable part of the subjects of the Communists' letters we have received is devoted to proposals to include some changes and amendments in the new CPSU Program. If you want to know my personal opinion, then I think that some aspects of our program began to be outdated the moment the general secretary finished reading the political report at the 27th Congress. The Program does not fully reflect the problems of restructuring, and Lenin taught us not make a dogma of anything. Should the need for amendments arise, then it is expedient that they be made. Of course, I do not think that the conference should start amending the CPSU Program immediately. However, my opinion is that it could adopt the decision to prepare the appropriate changes to be discussed at the next congress.

[Correspondents] Allow us also to ask a question concerning the CPSU's nationality policy. Why, seven decades after the revolution, are problems again emerging such as those in relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan?

[Bikkenin] A number of times, when viewing the relations among nations and nationalities in the USSR, we have paused to note that in our country the nationality question has been resolved once and for all, that we have eliminated the woeful legacy left behind by capitalism—period. There have been many formal aspects to the internationalist education, wishes have sometimes been passed off as results. As long as nations and nationalities exist, the issue of national cultures, language, national emotions, and so forth, will exist too. In a multinational state any economic, social, or other matter will be a problem involving nationality. One has to keep this fully in mind in theoretical as well as practical activity. We did not appreciate the importance of the nationality

problem in either of these, although experience shows that precisely here it is necessary to resolve everything with exceptional tact, attention, and prudence.

Lenin knew very well that nothing arouses emotions so easily as national sentiment misused to stir up nationalism. Not even price hikes or housing shortages are able to elicit such torrent of passion as a hurt or unappreciated national feeling, pride, or dignity. We did not take the Leninist teaching enough to heart, and since we do not live in isolation, but in a class-divided world, external influences, understandably, also played a role in the aggravation of some problems. For example, many people correctly drew attention to the fact that it is necessary to develop national languages more extensively. And some comrades interpreted this as a sign of nationalism. Why? After all, is it not possible to express socialist ideas in Kazakh just as well as in Russian, in Estonian just as well as in Armenian, Belorussian, or Ukrainian? This certain lack of sensitivity, I would say deafness of soul regarding a momentous matter, has led to some unpleasant consequences.

One more thing. We have become used to a monologue in ideology in the past decades. Most often from platforms, most often on paper. Meanwhile, the events that transpired, for example, in Alma-Ata, in the Baltic region, in Nagorno-Karabakh or Yerevan, clearly show that some of our ideologists simply do not even know how to speak with people, they are unable to talk to them in a clear, simple, intelligible, and spoken language. The time for declaiming correct slogans and reading monologues in ideological work is gone forever. The time of dialogue is in.

[Correspondents] The explosion in the Soviet Union of interest in history has attracted considerable attention. Particularly in its little known and complex aspects. What has caused it?

[Bikkenin] Yes, there is immense interest, and it is concentrated, in particular, on the history of our party. I see several reasons for this. We are turning to history because we want to learn. We are returning to it because we want to restore justness. And third, we want—on the basis of all these lessons—to create guarantees for the future that the things that have had tragic consequences for our history will not be repeated. What I mean is the violation of legality connected with J. Stalin's personality cult.

[Correspondents] The CPSU took a principled stand on this already 30 years ago—at the 20th Congress. Why, in your opinion, have these issues emerged so sharply precisely now?

[Bikkenin] The process initiated by the 20th CPSU Congress was later slowed down, and was completely halted after L. Brezhnev came to head the party. Stalin was again written or spoken about practically in a positive vein only. The works which were then being created and were critical of some traits of Stalin's personality were not published. I am convinced that if this natural discussion, initiated by the 20th party congress, had not been interrupted, many questions would have been answered by now, and not so many question marks would have accumulated again.

[Correspondents] Don't you think that the current discussion of complex aspects of history is somewhat one-sidedly concentrated precisely on Stalin? What is your opinion of the voices warning that publishing tragic facts connected with that name harms socialism?

[Bikkenin] Well, materials published by a number of our press organs have concentrated very much on the 1937-38 period and repression. At the same time we have in our history more such so-called blank spots; they do not concern only those years. The problem is that historical science needs time to be able to seriously assess facts, study documents, and draw conclusions. Haste would only do harm. I would like to show how our magazine wants to contribute to that discussion. This method can be illustrated by this year's second edition. We had the opportunity to publish material on how Bukharin underwent a party purge. We did not publish it, although it would, without doubt, have caused a "publishing explosion." However, we are not OGONEK, and therefore for us it was more interesting to give preference to material by Bukharin himself, devoted to Lenin's last works. We want to go back to the revolutionary personalities of our country and the international workers movement with a series of historical political portraits. We want to begin with Plekhanov. The Leninist analysis of personality will be the methodological key for us. We are preparing articles about Rosa Luxemburg and others. We will return to all the congresses, so that our history is a history of events, facts, and personalities. It will, without doubt, be extremely difficult to tell the whole truth about some periods in the process of a truthful and detailed clarification of our history. What I mean is, above all, the ideological aspect. But regarding the possible harm—I am convinced that truth cannot harm socialism. It is other matters that greatly harm socialism.

[Correspondents] We thank you for the interview.

Potapov Elected Irkutsk Obkom First Secretary

LD020935 Moscow TASS in English 0908 GMT 2 Apr 88

[Text] Irkutsk April 2 TASS—The Regional Party Committee held a plenary meeting today to consider an organisational matter. The plenum relieved Vasiliy Sitnikov of his duties of first secretary of the Irkutsk Region CPSU Committee in view of his taking up another job. The plenum elected Vladimir Potapov as the new first secretary of that CPSU Committee, who had worked as the second secretary.

Kazakh Prosecutor Fights Unlawful Prosecutions

PM310914 Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Mar 88 p 10

[Report by own correspondent for Kazakhstan A. Samoylenko under the rubric "Response": "Preventing Judicial Errors"]

[Text] Special conference at the Kazakhstan Prosecutor's Office.

It was not Kazakhstan that was discussed in Igor Gamayunov's court sketch "Metastases" (LITERATURNAYA GAZETA, 2 March 1988). It was Belorussia. How criminal cases were fabricated there and innocent people's lives were ruined to provide the notorious "detection percentage." Why is a special conference of Prosecutor's Office workers in Kazakhstan conducting an impassioned discussion of this sketch? Is it not because we must learn not only from our own mistakes, but also from others'?

Soon after the publication of the newspaper republican Prosecutor G.B. Yelemisov and Kazakhstan Minister of Internal Affairs G.N. Knyazev sent all 19 oblast prosecutor's offices and internal affairs administrations a letter of instruction: Discuss the sketch "Metastases" and the lessons to be drawn from it. And on 21 March these lessons were analyzed at a special session of the Kazakh SSR Prosecutor's Office Collegium, to which, in view of the topic, the author of these notes was invited. There was a serious, searching, principled discussion. The result? No, not only lengthy resolutions, but practical steps, too: Senior officials of the investigative apparatus were dispatched to several oblasts of Kazakhstan to check on the practice of investigative work. An experienced lawyer was invited to Alma-Ata to help in uncovering typical investigative violations—Leonid Georgiyevich Proshkin, investigator on particularly important cases for the general prosecutor and senior justice counselor.

At the same session the Kazakh SSR Prosecutor's Office Collegium examined the LITERATURNAYA GAZETA (2 March 1988) rejoinder "Path to the Truth." It emerged that in investigating the criminal cases of V.V. Skripnik and the hero of Pavel Volin's sketch "An Inspection Took Place...", the city Prosecutor's Office was guilty of red tape, prejudice, and bias toward the prosecution. As a result both cases were stopped, on the basis of rehabilitation. Those guilty of the unlawful prosecution of V.V. Skripnik, S.I. Shutkin, former Alma-Ata prosecutor, A.N. Poluyakhtov, senior investigator, and T.S. Rakhimberdin, chief of the investigation section, were severely punished.

It is the first time I have come across such a prompt reaction to a newspaper article. And, most importantly, such a principled, businesslike reaction. Surely this is an example of productive cooperation between a newspaper and the law enforcement organs!

Fight Against Turkmen 'Mafia' Described

PM291321 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 7 Mar 88 Second Edition p 4

[Correspondent M. Volkov report: "Countermove; Turkmen MVD Men Wage Relentless Struggle Against Crime"]

[Text] Turkmen SSR—"Leave me in peace. At least, stay out of it. Several hundred thousands don't just fall into your lap even if you are a colonel. And remember: I know very well what city your daughter lives in and where she is studying. I have nothing to lose, you understand. And, whatever happens, you won't put all of my people away...."

And he hung up. Aaleksandr Fedorovich understood that his collocutor was not joking. The name of Ilyas Abduragimovich Sarkiyev meant little to the townspeople, but his nickname—Vovchik-Syra—has a magical effect on many people even today. When the name is mentioned, some people bustle around locking all the windows and doors, while others have by then simply changed their permit and left their familiar haunts. It seemed there was no restraint on him: Of course, he used to slap more than one guardian of the law on the shoulder over a glass of vodka, and he was on "familiar terms" with important employees. Only this time Vovchik-Syra made a mistake.

...It is not from idle curiosity that we look through the personal file of Aleksandr Udalov. He graduated from Kaunas Secondary Specialized Militia School in 1960 and was sent to Krasnodar Kray as an operational criminal investigation agent. After another 4 years he took his lawyer's diploma, and 8 years later he was appointed deputy chief of Sochi Gorispolkom Internal Affairs Administration and awarded the rank of militia colonel.

Brilliant performing appraisal reports, reliable signatures—and suddenly a body blow—"dismissed from the organs...."

"We got onto an extensive trade mafia network in Sochi, but our arms—alas—were too short," Aleksandr Fedorovich grinned bitterly. "Former Sochi Gorispolkom Chairman Voronkov, about whom the central press wrote a great deal at the time, was by no means the main figure in that big game of smart operators," the colonel went on with his story. "Far more powerful forces were at work."

However, Udalov was, as they say, no gift to these powerful forces. But the operations of the criminal investigation administration and the Administration for Combatting Embezzlement of Socialist Property and Speculation were "blown" one after the other, and it was a secret to nobody who was letting the criminals off. The

deputy chief of the Gorispolkom Internal Affairs Administration collected damning materials on party gorkom secretary A. Merzlyy. The thread also extended to the party kraykom, to party commission chairman G. Karnaukhov.

The reaction was as quick as lightning. A session of the party gorkom bureau was held, at which he was expelled from the party. On appeal a commission was formed at the kraykom—first one, then another, then another-...twelve in all! He overturned the conclusions of all these commissions with facts. But, to use a sporting expression, they began to pile on the pressure. Aleksandr Fedorovich's mother Klavdiya Timofeyevna, who raised five children, was made to give a written undertaking not to leave her place of residence; she had allegedly obtained an illegal extra R10 on her pension.... His brother—a boiler house chief—was dismissed from work. The smart operators collected R52,000 to hire some ruffians, who agreed to kidnap A. Udalov's daughter (he rescued her in the nick of time). They hurriedly fabricated a "case" against him too. And hey, presto... he was under arrest. Incredible but true!

Expelled from the party and discredited, he unexpectedly became in the public mind the "source of all evil" in Sochi. (This scandal was also fanned by those responsible for everything—for the corruption, for the bribes....)

How did he endure it?

Well, justice could not fail to triumph, and everywhere where even recently it was oh so difficult to breathe, a fresh wind burst in. Karnaukhov, Merzlyy, and others of their ilk were sentenced to long terms of imprisonment. Udalov was restored to the party and to the militia organs, and once again he was awarded the rank of colonel. And then the post of chief of the Turkmen SSR Ministry of Internal Affairs Criminal Investigation Department... Roll up your sleeves, Aleksandr Fedorovich, because the struggle continues and your experience, your steadfastness, your courage, your endurance, and your skill in investigating people are needed as much as ever now.

...Udalov took Vovchik-Syra personally, 3 days after that telephone call. It was a countermove, unexpected by Sarkiyev, who was under investigation. He had not believed they would find him so quickly. After all, they had the entire Soviet Union to look in, and yet they went right to him....

"We had to take a lot of trouble over Sarkiyev," Udalov remarked. "To give him his due, he would have been an outstanding person, if his energy had been correctly channeled. But he rallied around him people who were prepared to do anything for gain."

We cannot fail to agree with this very realistic opinion by Udalov. Sarkiyev flourished precisely in the labyrinths created from the bricks of bureaucratism, mixed with careerism and corruption. No, Sarkiyev and his gang were not highwaymen stopping anybody they encountered. The 12 people now on trial "milked" the kind of people who, having "lost" several thousand rubles after an encounter with them, would not—because of certain details—be in any hurry to appeal to the militia.

Under the pressure of facts and irrefutable evidence, these people were glad to confess. Gavrush Sarkisyan, former shop chief at the Turkmen SSR Ministry of Consumer Services Bezmein Repair and Construction Administration, for example, stated that he was told that he owed the criminal world neither more nor less than R100,000 and that, if he did not pay the supposed debt, he would be shot(!). Sarkisyan admitted that he paid R25,000, after which he left for his permanent place of residence in Krasnodar. But they found him there and demanded that he "pay up on time." To make him more compliant, they constantly threatened his brother Genrich, who remained in Ashkhabad. What is remarkable is that neither Gavrush nor Genrich thought of turning to the militia for help. The former, I repeat, left, and the latter contrived to buy a "TT" pistol—for self-defense (for which, incidentally, he was convicted).

I. Dzharagetti, former director general of the "Avtovaztekhobsluzhivaniye" Association and now first deputy chairman of the Turkmen SSR State Committee for Vocational and Technical Education, built his own relations with dubious characters by-passing the law enforcement organs. Things were stolen from his apartment while he was out: a Japanese tape recorder and a lady's purse containing gold jewelry—rings, a small chain, and money to the value of R1,100. His wife told the militia, but when I. Dzharagetti returned home, he chose another way: He told his mechanic friend S. Petrosyan about what had happened. The friend immediately gave the following advice: Nobody, he said, can help apart from Vovchik-Syra. And he organized a meeting of the interested parties.

"Business" people say very little, and this conversation took no more than 3-4 minutes: I. Dzharagetti asked I. Sarkiyev to find the stolen goods and to protect his family against "unfortunate accidents." The latter promised. On what terms? It is still difficult to say, but one thing is indisputable—the sister of a senior leader soon discovered the stolen tape recorder and rings in her home. (Apparently, the chain and the money went on commission). And I. Dzharagetti never went to the militia.

On the other hand, A. Allakhverdov, acting director of the "Obuv" store, put his trust in the speed of air transport. He threw up everything, taking with him his wife and child. He left his family with relatives in Baku and went straight to the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs. Judging by his story, things went very badly with him: He had not reached an understanding with the fitter I. Sarkiyev. After this his car was stolen, and early next morning the "little Zhibuli" dear to his heart was set

alight in the city center—in Gorkiy Park. Twice very lights were fired into the open windows of A. Allakhverdov's veranda, and threats were made to kidnap his son. On the eve of the panic flight from Ashkhabad a group of people (many of whom he could name) threatened him with knives and drove him out of the city to the sand dunes, where they beat him up and begun to bury him—tied up—in a hole. The nightmare ended when he agreed to write a receipt saying that he had bought an apiary from one of them for R25,000, that he owed them, and that he promised to pay back the money.

USSR MVD intervention was not needed. Difficult though it was to get at I. Sarkiyev, they were after him long before A. Allakhverdov gave his testimony. The twice convicted recidivist had thought of almost everything: A reliable cover (fitter at a construction and installation administration), links with the law enforcement organs, intimidated witnesses who distrusted the militia.... He attached no significance to the obvious fact that new people had arrived at the Turkmen MVD.

The wasps nest that for years have epitomized everything that was preventing us from making progress and from living and working fruitfully, unfettered and free, are starting to crumble. The time has promoted exceptionally honest and courageous people to the front rank. Among these is Udalov.

Only those who could be trusted not to falter or let people down were picked for the operational investigation group, headed by Deputy Minister of Internal affairs K. Tachmamedov. There was Byashim Taganov—desperately brave. Khydyr Meledzhayev, who had borne the burden of service in AFGHANISTAN. The shrewd operations man, Andrey Baranov. Tenacious and uncompromising investigators Amanklych Khudayberdyyev and Akhmer Khudaynazarov. The indefatigable Vitaliy Gordeyev, from the fresh intake...

But, as the analysis of criminal gang—and not only Sarkiyev's gang—"maneuvers" showed, there was a "direct line" between the MVD system and the gang. For a long time, operational information had invariably leaked.... For that reason Tachmamedov and Udalov took the decision in the first few days that nobody should know what exactly the newly-created group was engaged in, what the previous had produced, or what was planned for the next day.

"We realized," Kiyas Redzhapovich Tachmamedov said, "that this decision would offend honest personnel." But there was no other way. Decent people realized that something serious was afoot, and since their help was not needed they withdrew and plunged themselves into their work. And there was a lot of work. Others started to worry and fidget. First one, then another was "exposed." Criminal proceedings were instigated against Annamukhamedov, sergeant of the guard of the temporary lockup. I will not conceal that, to our great regret, we have still not put an end to this list.

The painful and difficult purge helped to successfully effect the first major operation. In Ashkhabad the recidivist Gadzhiyev—well known in the criminal world—was fatally injured in a car accident. Criminals from all the towns and villages gathered for his funeral banquet; around 400 people assembled altogether. This by itself attests to the kind of atmosphere created in the city in recent years....

Tachmamedov and Udalov, at risk to themselves, decided to intervene in the conclave camouflaged as religious ceremony. They alerted the militia secondary school, instructed the personnel to be exceptionally polite and correct and arrest only those under suspicion, and distributed photos of those in whom they were interested. That day they took around 20 people, some of them already under investigation. Byashim Taganov distinguished himself again—he arrested the fugitive thief E. Krasnov, who had "flown in" right from Rostov.

They were seriously alarmed in the opposing camp: Why had they not known about the operation being prepared? They rushed to pick up the old links, but there was no longer any one loyal to them, and those who remained were not, so to speak, in the know. It was already too late. Sarkiyev was "cooked," as often happens, by a trivial slip. They started to interrogate employees at the "Turkmentorgstroy" Trust No 1 Construction and Installation Administration, where he was listed as a fitter, and very soon it was revealed that he was only known to the cashier, who punctually twice a month counted out crisp bank notes for him. "I can't understand it at all," L. Bagdasarov, former chief of No 1 Construction and Installation Administration, said spreading his hands (he is now head of "Turkmenagropromspetsmontazhstroy" Trust No 4 Mobile Mechanized Column). Yet his unsafe hands had allowed the dodger to steal almost R9,000 from the state in the form of unearned pay.

The net was spread and ready. Sensing this, some people took flight. In vain. In Tedzhen, Khydyr Meledzhayev overtook O. Zhumakov, who was armed with a sawn-off gun, and caught the bandit single-handed. In Ashkhabad S. Avdeyev was arrested without fuss; he did not even manage to draw his revolver, from which he was never separated. The rest came "quietly," as they say.

Today they are on trial. They snap maliciously, sharply. For them all means are fine—lawyers summoned from Moscow and Kiev and intimidation of witnesses, victims, and law enforcement personnel. Late one evening a stranger rang at the door of A. Khudayberdyyev's apartment. Amanklych, who was armed like all those in the Tachmamedov-Udalov group, detained the uninvited visitor and summoned a car. The stranger admitted that he was supposed to be finding out whether the apartment was defended, when the owners were at home, how many members in the family... And early in the morning, at the entrance to the republic criminal investigation administration, a lady in a dark veil lay in wait for Amanklych.

She was brief: If the Sarkiyev family had to put on mourning, the women of the Khudayberdyyev family would not remain in elegant dresses either.

"The next day I had to send my family out of the republic," Amanklych explained. "I myself will stay at my post whatever happens."

...V. Grinin, Turkmen SSR minister of internal affairs, was outwardly calm. Exaggeratedly correct. And I looked into his eyes, which were red with tiredness, and quite honestly I felt rather bleak at the thought: Do we all work like this today?! To the point of exhaustion, selflessly, with a high understanding of responsibility, and, in the end, with such results?

...The situation in the republic is complex; it has taken shape over a number of years, and you cannot dispel the festering atmosphere of those years in a single hour. The debauch of bureaucratism—when one in six people in Turkmenia was a hood [bashlyk] (that is, a leader), when paperwork and a number on a report completely shielded a worker—resulted in the degeneration of a proportion of cadres. Many top militia "ranks" and men of lower standing were involved in various kinds of machinations and crimes and sometimes even acted as the skilled organizers or agents. Some personnel even, unfortunately, in the upper echelon sometimes simply had no time to engage in their direct duties. It is no accident that the criminal groups now being rendered harmless were previously able to operate without fear.

The schooling which the minister underwent while fulfilling his international duty in Afghanistan indisputably helped in this. Moreover, he does not like to talk about himself, nor about what has already been accomplished. It is all about what is unresolved, what is painful. He presents problems in a broad and generalized way. He has repeatedly appeared on the republic's television, each time insisting on a live broadcast, and asked people to raise the most vitally important questions.

"We have declared a tough, uncompromising war against the traitors"—this is what the minister calls in plain terms the people who have stained their uniforms. Dozens of crooks have been thrown out of the organs, with criminal proceedings instituted against them.

Yes, a merciless battle against criminal corruption has begun in the republic. The people who have joined the battle can feel its evil force. Perhaps the most terrible thing is the continuous, dangerous attacks against the relatives of new Turkmen MVD employees.

...A bottle thrown from the roof of a 12-story building smashed at the feet of the wife of Yu. Makiyenko, chief of the Turkmen MVD Administration for Combatting Embezzlement of Socialist Property and Speculation. Another few centimeters, and there would have been a tragedy.

...In a dimly lit entrance, a stranger grasped from behind, by the neck, the 16-year old daughter of the chief of one of the ministry administrations: "Tell your father," he hissed in her ear, "to ease off.... He knows.... Or else!"

"I don't fear for myself. I have experienced evil. I have seen a great deal. But such baseness oppresses some people more powerfully than a knife threat." Udalov frowned, the corners of his mouth creased in sorrow. Oh, how difficult it is for the colonel today. Very recently he was transferred from the Turkmen MVD to the very hottest spot. Aleksandr Fedorovich was appointed to the most difficult sector, as chief of Chardzhou Oblispolkom Internal Affairs Administration. He has been entrusted with the most difficult administration, in the very city where corruption led to the organized murder of a party obkom instructor—the inflexible Khalima, whom PRAVDA has already written about....

"Yes, Udalov, indisputably you are needed in Chardzhou today," the minister said.

...And here is the first sign: The arrest is reported in Chardzhou of an armed gang led by a certain G. Soskiyev, an inhabitant of Nurek with five convictions. The Tajik MVD announced that it was looking for him on suspicion of murder. In less than a year Soskiyev and his assistants robbed eight stores in Chardzhou Oblast, inflicting losses to the tune of around R100,000.

Yet another gang has ceased to exist.

Rally of Sumgait People's Militia Reported

PM071113 Baku BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY in Russian 30 Mar 88 p 3

[AZERINFORM report: "Responsible for Order"]

[Text] Sumgait—The first citywide meeting of members of the voluntary people's militia [obshchegorodskoy slet druzhinnikov] has been held in Sumgait. This is the first time the 132 worker formations combining more than 3,000 people have gathered together; throughout this month of unrest they have helped day and night to protect the city and establish order.

The tragic events in Sumgait have cast a new light on the role played by the voluntary people's militia. It is now clear that these small defense detachments established on a formal basis in the past contained a considerable number of casual members [sluchaynyye]. The result of this was that the voluntary people's militia members were unable to rally their forces in time and to use their strength and organization to counteract the mob stirred up by false rumors or to prevent crimes and breaches of public order. The many years of complacency and fragmentation and the lack of a clear program and training took their toll.

All these errors have been taken into account. Measures have been taken to prevent a repetition of the events. The people's militia squads have been joined by volunteers who are really deeply concerned by the state of affairs. Communists, Komsomol members, and former internationalist servicemen now form the backbone of the voluntary people's militia. They have received a letter from Emin Shafiyev, a sergeant of assault troops who has done service in Afghanistan and is himself from Sumgait. "Side by side," he wrote, "we Georgians, Armenians, Russians, Azerbaijanis, and representatives of other nationalities perform our difficult military service. The idea of the motherland is particularly sacred to us. The bonds of fraternity are inviolable, just as our Soviet country is indivisible. Never will we allow anyone to encroach on the most holy of holies—our international fraternity."

The city now has 2.5 times more support points for the safeguarding of order. A special department has been established at the Sumgait Gorispolkom to coordinate their operations.

The tasks facing the voluntary people's militia, as the buttress of the law-enforcement organs, were discussed at the meeting by Z. Gadzhiyev, first secretary of Sumgait party gorkom, and representatives of labor collectives.

The participants in the meeting were welcomed by Kh. Tagarov, chairman of the public order support point located at the "Sintezkauchuk" Production Association. In these so tragic days for the city Khalil Rzayevich did not lose his head but assembled all the members of the plant's voluntary militia and organized their duties in the quarter where the support point is situated. Thanks to the decisive action taken by the voluntary militia, no family or person suffered. A retired colonel who fought for his multiethnic country from the first day of the Great Patriotic War until victory could not have done otherwise! There are always a great many young people alongside this veteran of war and labor. For the new generation of voluntary people's militia Kh. Tagarov and dozens of other Sumgait residents like him who did not falter at the hour of crisis will be mentors.

M.N. Asadov, chief of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee Administrative Organs Department, took part in the work of the meeting.

Servicemen Warn Against National Dissension

PM070843 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Apr 88 Second Edition p 1

[Letter from I. Dzhafarov, A. Galechyan, and M. Mezurashvili, servicemen of "N" unit: "Whom It Benefits"]

[Text] Esteemed Editors! Three conscripted servicemen are writing to you from Moscow Military District. This letter has been prompted by the events in Nagorno-Karabakh, which we have been following, quite frankly, with pain in our hearts.

One of us is Armenian; another, Azerbaijanian; and the third, Georgian. We serve in the same subunit, share difficulties equally, and are firm friends. Now we have decided to share our thoughts.

What is going on? Soviet power, for which the best sons of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia also gave their lives, has brought everyone genuine equality of rights and the opportunity to live and work in the name of universal happiness and prosperity. And now someone wants to prise apart the peoples of our country, undermine trust in one another, and sow the evil seeds of dissension and alienation. It is necessary to deal a firm rebuff to hooligans and provocateurs and display civic courage, wisdom, and loyalty to our lofty principles.

Today we are far from our homes, parents, relatives, and friends. But here too, in Moscow Oblast, we feel at home, in the motherland which is the same for all Soviet people.

We know that considerable forces oppose the revolutionary restructuring under way in the country today. And we must be all the stronger and more concerted and stand up fraternally for the common cause and against the overt and covert enemies who objectively work for the benefit of not only the so-called braking mechanism but also international reaction.

We are confident that the present difficulties will be overcome. Our heroic history and today's difficult but glorious time give us this confidence. And so does our friendship, without which we cannot imagine either our Army service or life in general.

Improvements to Moscow Militia Work Outlined

LD301947 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1630 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Excerpts] A traditional meeting with journalists was held today in the Main Directorate of Internal Affairs of the Moscow Gorispolkom. Its subject was the role of political bodies in restructuring the work of the militia. Our correspondent Anatoliy Fedorov invited to the microphone Lev Petrovish Belyanskiy, chief of the Central Directorate's Political Department:

[Begin recording] [Fedorov] Lev Petrovich, at the January plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, the task was set on learning how to work in conditions of democracy. The Moscow militia is in the country's public eye. What is being done by the political bodies and the party organization to really learn how to work in the new conditions?

[Belyanskiy] The process of democratization in the country and broadening glasnost—all this enduces us workers in the militia to work in a spirit of the strictest observance of socialist legislation. We are oriented toward improving the quality of the professional training of

those employed in the militia—you will agree, the observance of socialist legislation depends a great deal on this. We are improving the quality of instruction in the militia departments. But the exactingness and responsibility of those employed in the militia, in particular managers, for the undeviating observance of socialist legislation is also increasing.

Unfortunately, we are still receiving a lot of complaints from Muscovites and visitors to the capital to the effect that our employees are showing a lack of culture and that they do not always adopt the necessary urgent measures to expose crimes. We are endeavoring to educate our personnel on these specific examples in specific criticism of employees of the militia. [passage omitted]

[Fedorov] The cadre question is probably one of the main ones. What is being done by the political department here?

[Belyanskiy] We are expanding the democratic principles of nominating employees to new posts. The same applies to the attestation of our police inspectors, with consideration given to public opinion at the station in which he is working. [passage omitted]

[Fedorov] Lev Petrovich, a huge detachment of Communists works in the Moscow militia. As chief of the Political Department of the Central Directorate, are you happy with everything as it is today?

[Belyanskiy] Much is being done; the process of restructuring is underway. But, unfortunately, a great deal is changing slowly, and not as we would like. Many primary organizations are still showing inertia in their work, little criticism and self-criticism is developing, and if criticism does exist it is only from the top down. The necessary measures are not always being adopted following speeches of criticism. We are raising our exactingness. We are immediately ridding ourselves of those employees who commit infringements. I have to say that we dismissed over 1,000 people last year, and 47 were convicted. Many were exposed by ourselves personally for corruption, for road accidents which were sometimes caused by drunkenness, and for other misdemeanours.

On the one hand this figure must be looked at, in the first place, as a most serious shortcoming on our part, and poor educational work. However, on the other hand, this is obviously a case of a need to raise exactingness and a sense of principles. It has to be said that we have a lot of Communists in the Central Directorate, we have much to learn and much to do in order to fulfil the party's requirements. [end recording]

Moscow MVD Administration Briefs Newsmen

PM311119 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 31 Mar 88 p 4

[M. Salykova report: "Report From 38 Petrovka..."]

[Text] A routine briefing was held yesterday for journalists at the Moscow Gorispolkom Internal Affairs Main Administration. It was conducted by L.P. Belyanskiy, chief of the Internal Affairs Main Administration Political Department. After the official report on law infringements in the capital in the last week, the work of restructuring in militia organs was discussed.

The number of automobile thefts has doubled owing to the arrival of spring.

The "biker" season is expected to open in Moscow. The speaker reported that the militia is prepared to take resolute action. Militia staffers on powerful motorcycles and DOSAAF sportsmen are ready to arrest "night riders"—groups of adolescents roaming the city streets at night.

Our newspaper has frequently commented on this subject. Indisputably, the problem of the "bikers" cannot be resolved by prohibitory measures alone. It was mentioned at one briefing that the planned construction of a speedway track has simply not been implemented.

There are enough problems. Working people frequently complain of law and order workers' rudeness and tactless behavior. The political department is resolutely combating those who have tarnished the honor of militia workers by their conduct or actions. Thus, 67 people were expelled from the party, 47 militia staffers convicted, and more than 1,000 people dismissed.

Journalists noted that the militia have accumulated many grievances against the press but it is rare, extremely rare, for internal affairs personnel to speak out in the central press. Dialogue is necessary. It will also provide the constructive approach to many hitherto unresolved problems. The following question was asked: "Why are our militia officers, whom we sometimes have to approach on the street, so unfriendly? Teach them to smile." A Hungarian MVD spokesman present at the briefing asked: "Tell me, when a State Automobile Inspection staffer stops a driver, who is supposed to go up to whom? In Hungary the driver remains seated and the militia staffer goes up to him, he introduces himself, and explains everything that he needs. In Moscow on the other hand the driver gets out of his automobile and runs along the highway to the automobile inspector. Then back again. This is dangerous. Sometimes he has to go up into the State Automobile Inspection booth [in the middle of the street], which is also very inconvenient.

The Moscow militia is learning to work under new conditions.

MVD Official Discusses New Structural Measures

LD031238 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2330 GMT 2 Apr 88

[Text] As we have already reported, the CPSU Central Committee Politburo has confirmed regulations on political organs within the system of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs. A TASS correspondent met with

Lieutenant General of the Internal Service Anikiyev, head of the Political Directorate of Internal Affairs, and asked him to comment on this report.

The Politburo has mapped out measures linked with the setting up of a single organizational structure for the political organs of ministries and for the further improvement of our work, said Anatoliy Vasilyevich. It has been stressed especially that the adoption of these measures will promote the strengthening of party and political influence on the activity of the internal affairs organs to strengthen socialist legality and law and order, and step up protection of the rights and lawful interests of citizens.

Political work in the internal affairs organs assumes special importance today. We cannot forget the lessons we were taught by the thirties and forties, when the absence of democracy at the proper level in Soviet society gave rise to the cult of personality, crude violation of legality, arbitrariness, and repressions. Political adventurists within the leadership of the internal affairs organs were also guilty of crimes involving the abuse of power. The stagnation of the seventies and eighties also led to ugly negative processes. The USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs, which found itself beyond criticism, was no exception in this.

Great organizational efforts by party and local soviet bodies were required to cleanse the corps of cadres of workers who had compromised themselves and were untrustworthy and to strengthen all services and sections of the Ministry of Internal affairs. The internal affairs organs have been joined by a large number of Communists and qualified specialists. The party and Komsomol core of the sections and services now makes up more than 60 percent.

In the first place, we now must deploy correctly the political worker-cadres and review all the activities both of the political directorate itself and of the local political departments, Comrade Anikiyev went on to note. We have a duty to help the leadership of the bodies and establishments of ministries, using the entire arsenal of ideological resources, to raise the activity level of the staff in solving operational and service tasks. Political workers must go deeply into the problems that face the militia, the fire brigade, and correctional labor establishments; find ways of maximizing the efficiency of the personnel and teach them how to work under conditions of democracy and glasnost.

The head of the Political Directorate of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs spoke in particular about the program of glasnost which has been adopted and confirmed at the ministry. It sets out the form and procedure for responding to criticism contained in press material. Checking is carried out of all critical statements and the necessary measures are taken with respect to them. Over the past 2 years, about 2,500 items published in the central newspapers have been analyzed. The observations contained in them have been taken into consideration in the activity of different services of the ministry. The position of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs amounts to that of having an honest and open dialogue with the working people through the mass information organs on the most pressing issues in the fight against crime, on the strengthening of law and order and socialist legality, on responding fully and at the proper time to constructive criticism, and on strengthening mutual cooperation.

A special responsibility for fulfilling in a skilful way the tasks that have been set by the party and people and for the ideological hardening of cadres has been placed upon the political workers of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs and we have to justify that confidence in full, Lieutenant General Anikiyev concluded.

Mossoviet Budget To Stress Social Sphere

LD011035 Moscow TASS in English 0942 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 1 TASS—By TASS correspondent Viktor Yevseyev:

Some 500,000 flats will be built in Moscow over the next ten years under plans which provide for giving each family a flat by the year 2000. This subject will be in the focus of attention at a session of the Moscow Soviet of People's Deputies (Mossoviet), due in early April.

"We have a powerful enough house-building industry," says Yevgeniy Bystrov, first deputy of the Mossoviet chairman. "The Moscow budget and development plans have never been geared to satisfying the everyday and cultural needs of Moscow dwellers as they are now."

"The social sphere, which received top priority, will develop at the highest rates of growth," Yevgeniy Bystrov said. "For example, allocations for education, health and social security amount to 42 per cent of all budget expenditures in 1988, which is more than 1.4 billion roubles. Sources, other than the state, for financing the construction of 54,000 comfortable flats this year were determined."

"The income and expenditure of the budget of the nearly 9-million capital are strictly balanced with the incomes being slightly in excess of expenditures. Its main source are payments from the profits of enterprises and economic organisations of the city council. In this year's budget, they amount to some 1.8 billion roubles or 53 per cent. Revenues from payments by population will barely exceed 200 million. Fees from self-employed city-dwellers and recently-created cooperatives will bring in 200,000-odd roubles," Yevgeniy Bystrov said.

This year the Mossoviet Executive Committee received for the first time the right to establish its own foreign currency fund to help it meet requirements in imports.

The fund will consist of deductions from the revenues of enterprises which export goods or provide services for foreign currency. The fund already helped to buy abroad medical equipment for a hospital in the capital and equipment for several enterprises of the city's light and food industry.

Gossnab Officials Discuss Effects of Staff Cuts

PM310912 Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Mar 88 p 2

[A. Nevskiy report: "Supplier Without a Job..."]

[Text] Apparatus reductions are taking place in the USSR Gossnab system: 30 main administrations [glavki] are being eliminated and the staff has been reduced by 2,500 employees.

P.R. Rumyantsev, former chief of the Main Administration of Packages, now chairman of the Elimination Committee:

I am over 60, so personally I am more concerned about my subordinates' future than my own. Until recently there were 174 employees on the staff of the main administration. Of these, 78 were taken onto a newly formed section of the Gossnab central apparatus, to posts with higher salaries. To my knowledge, the new section will number 120 staff. Not much fewer than the main administration, is it?

V.I. Vershinin, former chief of the Main Administration of Timber Products:

After the elimination of the main administration, nearly 150 employees were left without a job, including 2 of my deputies. I was appointed chief of the new USSR Gossnab Balances and Wholesale Trade in Timber Materials Section, but, you understand, I had no opportunity to take all the experienced workers with me. Now all I do is to make arrangements for people who have come under the cuts. We have found jobs for 30 specialists: at enterprises and in the service sphere. Clearly many will have to retrain. It is quite understandable that by no means everyone is satisfied with the changes: After all, many have lost high salaries.

Ye.M. Lapin, deputy chief of the USSR Gossnab cadres section:

Yes, it is only in Ryazanov's latest movie that bureaucrats finding themselves on the streets arouse no sympathy among us. In real life, we have human sympathy for these people. Is it their fault that the apparatuses of ministries and departments became so inflated in recent decades?

That is the opinion of the leaders. At "grass roots" level there is a different mood. In all the eliminated main administrations I visited, I heard approximately this:

"Of course, arrangements were made for all the chiefs, none of them was left without a cosy corner. But what about us? Do we really have to go into production work?"

That is what specialists with higher education are now saying.

"...The merciless removal of superfluous officials, the cutting of staffs, the replacement of Communists who do not learn the task of management seriously—that should be the line..."

That is what V.I. Lenin said back in 1922.

Work on Revising Tax System Under Way

LD020844 Moscow TASS in English 0640 GMT 2 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 2 TASS—"There is no unified system of income tax in the Soviet Union so far. There are only different kinds of taxation of individual categories of people." This is the opinion of Viktor Tur, a leading official of the USSR Ministry of Finance. He comments on a new decree of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, which enters into force today and which regulates the taxation of people who work in cooperatives as well as a procedure for the issue of patents for individual enterprise.

Having recalled that in the socialist state taxes which are levied on population (agricultural income tax as well as taxes on bachelors and citizens with small families) are not the main source of its financial resources, accounting for only eight per cent of the budget, Viktor Tur substantiated the need to introduce the new tax.

"Over the past year or two", he said, "23,000 cooperatives have sprung up in the country. Fourteen thousand of them already function in the service sector, and have offered consumer goods on the market. The number of those who wish to engage in individual enterprise grows, too. Together with the cooperatives they already turn out products worth millions of roubles. But, as in any new undertaking, there are still many ambiguities, errors, and even violations of law which often affect financial discipline rules. Some cooperatives and those practicing individual enterprise, in pursuit of big profits, resort to unlawful actions. For example, they buy up food and raw materials at low state prices, and not at market ones."

The new decree stipulates that with earnings up to 500 roubles a month these persons pay the same taxes as all workers and employees engaged in the national economy—up to 13 per cent. Then the tax grows in geometrical progression: With earnings of 1,000 to 1,500 roubles a month, an income tax reaches 70 per cent.

The process of determining amounts of payment for an individual enterprise patent will also become more flexible and democratic, reflecting the conditions of various

regions of the country. Previously the amounts of payments for patents ere fixed by the governments of the union republics. From now on, this right is transferred to local soviets.

"The system of income tax on those who work at state-run enterprises is also in need of refinement", Viktor Tur said. The USSR Ministry of Finance and a number of other central economic bodies now work on creating a mechanism which would best suit the conditions of the socialist state and Soviet society.

Kiev Radiation Levels Normal After Chernobyl

LD071054 Moscow TASS in English 1036 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Kiev April 7 TASS—The radiation situation in Kiev is absolutely normal two years since the Chernobyl nuclear power accident, says the Ukrainian health minister.

"Its level in the capital's streets and open places is only 20-30 micro-roentgen, which is the same as before the Chernobyl accident," Anatoliy Romanenko said in an interview to a republican newspaper.

The minister dismissed as "absurd and groundless" the rumours that the radiation situation in the city was bad. He rejected the hoaxes about radioactive contamination of ground waters and the increase in the level of radioactivity in the Rivers Dnieper and Desna due to spring flooding.

"There are no radiation hazards whatsoever in Kiev," Romanenko said. "In the Dnieper, the level of radioactivity does not exceed permissible norms, the water in the Desna River is also clean.

Sanitation services, the All-Union Centre for Radiation Medicine and the Republican Academy of Sciences test water several times a day."

The minister recalled that close attention was being given to food products supplied to the city. They are subjected to checks two or three times. Thousands of samples are taken every day to guarantee that the residents of Kiev get only clean food on their tables.

No Political Prisoners Remain in Asylums

AU051328 Rome ANSA in English 1236 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] Milan, April 5 (ANSA)—There are no longer political prisoners being held in the Soviet Union's mental asylums according to Aleksandreyevich Churkin [name as received], the head of the country' s psychiatric service, who was interviewed by the Moscow correspondent of the Milan daily CORRIERE DELLA SERA.

Western human rights organizations have informed the Soviet authorities of up to 150 cases of political prisoners [word indistinct] in mental hospitals but the 42 year old psychiatric chief said all but about 10 seriously ill prisoners have now left the country or been sent home, leaving the country's asylums free of the political cases they held for years.

According to Churkin Soviet psychiatric establishments used to be divided into two distinct groups, those under the control of the Health Ministry and those under the control of the Interior Ministry. It was into the second group that political dissidents, certified as mental patients, were sent.

Until last year, an estimated five and a half million Soviet citizens, two percent of the total population, were receiving psychiatric care.

Although Churkin agreed with this estimate, he insisted on putting the figure into perspective, saying that even people suffering from the slightest disorders were put on the list of mental patients.

"Patients, even those with slight problems, were very limited. They could not have driving licences, they could not buy weapons, and there were many jobs which they could not hold. At any moment they could be taken into hospital for obligatory treatment. As a result our wards filled people with dread, even healthy people. Now we want to give psychiatry a friendly face."

Top of the list of Churkin's priorities in his shake-up of the psychiatric service is cutting back the number of people on the certified lists. "We are changing the registration system," he said. "Only the most serious cases will undergo obligatory treatment. The others will have their rights given back to them and they will be treated only if they ask for this freely. Our lists should contract by about 30 percent, which means between one and a half and two millions less people," he explained.

Asked whether psychoanalysis wil ever be recognised in the Soviet Union, Churkin said "we approve of psychotherapy, and we want more of it. But for the moment there is no question of psychoanalysis."

Orthodox Churchman Briefs Newsmen on Millennium

PM061341 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Apr 88 Morning Edition p 2

[G. Charodeyev report: "On Eve of Anniversary"]

[Text] As already reported, a pre-Synod conference of the Russian Orthodox Church was held in Novodevichiy Monastery's Church of the Assumption 28 through 31 March to discuss the progress of the preparations to celebrate the 1,000th anniversary of the Christianization of Rus and the program of the main jubilee event—the

Regional [pomestnoy] Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church. Following the end of the conference, a press conference was held in the Moscow Patriarchate's Publishing Department.

The restructuring of the life of society taking place in our country in line with the principles of democracy and glasnost, the participants in the press conference declared, and the special attention being devoted here to questions of spirituality and morality are of fundamental significance for the destiny of our entire people. Note was taken of the Soviet state's all-around assistance, which has enabled the preparations for jubilee festivities to be made in a short time. The members of higher orders of the clergy who spoke at the press conference condemned the actions of individual members of the clergy who are attempting to "introduce division and difference of opinion into the church milieu and shake church discipline." They urged believers to "cherish the unity of the episcopate, the clergy, and the laity and the unity of the whole church as something most precious."

Metropolitan Filaret of Kiev and Galicia, who addressed the journalists, reported that literally the whole Christian world is celebrating the approaching festival. Ceremonies, conferences, and prayers will be conducted in many countries, and books and albums will be published. UNESCO has also appealed to 159 states to celebrate the 1,000th anniversary of the Christianization of Rus as a major event in world culture and history.

Moscow Synagogue Stages 'Propagandist' Play

PM061529 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 29 Mar 88 p 3

[A. Svirin article: "The Play Dropped a Hint, or On Speculations With Believers' Feelings"]

[Text] The substantial changes which have touched all aspects of our life have also affected the specific sphere of religious communities' activity. The activeness of religious figures and organizations in questions of sociopolitical life has become noticeably livelier recently. This is understandable: Believers and clerics, as citizens of their country, are perturbed by the many problems on whose solution we are all working now. An example of dialogue for the sake of common goals could be seen in the recent gathering of representatives from Moscow's religious denominations.

The participants in the gathering, expressing the opinion of their parishioners—Orthodox, Muslims, Evangelical Baptist Christians, Judaists—spoke of support for our state's domestic and peace-loving foreign policy and of different aspects of cooperation for the sake of the common good regardless of differences in world outlook.

Attention was also paid to the conditions in which small religious communities engage in their activity. This problem can be seen in the example of the Marina Roshcha Jewish religious community.

Although it is small in terms of parishioner numbers, it nonetheless has a certain influence on people of different age groups. Its chairman, M.Ye. Ravich, speaking of the difficulties which the Board encounters, expressed regret that no member of the Board had been invited to the gathering of the religious public. Inattention to the synagogue's needs creates a sort of vacuum, and attempts to fill it are immediately made by certain people whose goals, far from pious, have clearly nationalistic overtones.

It is also worrying that this influence is felt by young people coming to the Marina Roshcha Synagogue, whose outlook on life is not yet fully formed. In what kind of way might these young people have been affected while watching plays ("Purimspiels") which were staged at the Marina Roshcha Synagogue on several occasions in March?

The 2d day of March marked the beginning of the religious holiday of Purim, which celebrates the deliverance of Jews from extermination at the time of the Persian Kingdom. The story of Queen Esther, who exposed the king's vizier who was planning to destroy the Jewish people, is contained in the Bible. This story also inspired Rembrandt to paint a picture now housed in Moscow's Museum of Fine Arts.

But what inspired the authors of the play which was based on the historical topic and staged at the synagogue?

There is no better explanation than that provided by the author of the production, Grigoriy Rozenshteyn, who claims that his work is a special form of divine service, and that the play shows a universal method for the deliverance of the Jewish nation from all evils for all time. The "warm-up" organized by David Karpov, one of the play's actors, was perceived as confirmation of this. He asked: "Who is the strongest of all?", and the children and adults replied: "God," "The Jew." For his part, Karpov skillfully conducted the children's choir repetitively chanting words from the Torah, implanting in his young audience the idea that the strongest of all are Jewish children who know the Torah's teaching.

It is indicative that Esther was not brought into the play at all. This is because, according to the version on stage, it was not she who saved her people but the 22,000 Jewish children who had devoutly studied the Holy Book. This was used to build a bridge from then to the present day—at the end of the play parents were called upon to entrust their children to modern teachers of the Torah, since such teachers are now available (meaning in the Marina Roshcha Synagogue).

The entire production is full of allusions to strictly contemporary circumstances, situations, and actual persons. "Let Khiya [name as transliterated, allusion unknown] go to Jerusalem," the crowd in the play begs

the rainmaker. "Permission to depart refused." "Reasons for departure invalid." "Permission refused again." One resolution by the King of the Persians follows another. And so on and so forth. The allusions are transparent, since the audience is prepared for them.

This preparation takes place in Torah study circles and during meetings with foreign visitors who are drawn to the Marina Roshcha Synagogue not by a desire to perform religious ceremonies but by the opportunity to set young and tender souls "on the correct path." And these visitors are brought there by those who feel themselves to be only temporary residents in our country, while awaiting their visa for abroad. They make no secret of either their names or their true intentions. We won't make any secret of it, either. Aleksandr Lukatskiy, former steward of the Marina Roshcha Synagogue, the aforementioned Grigoriy Rozenshteyn.

The danger lies not so much in the bearers of the philosophy of "refusenikism" but in its consequences for people who are only just embarking on their life's path, like many among those who attend the Marina Roshcha Synagogue. Unfortunately, because of their lack of experience and unformed convictions, they are often unable to perceive the class and national essence of that to which they are so zealously called with the use of most diverse methods.

It is indicative that the sense of disquiet is also shared by those who attended the religious festival at Marina Roshcha. Here are a few lines from some of the letters which the newspaper received. "It did not seem anything unusual, I was just attending an ordinary religious festival. But it became clear from the very beginning of the play that this was no ordinary religious play, it was a call to Jews to return to the Promised Land and rebuild the destroyed temple. The play showed King Ahasuerus denying them an opportunity to return. Grand Vizier Haman was shown in the play as butcher of the Jewish nation, and retribution befell him—he was hanged. My impression," A. Dadonov concludes, "is that the religious festival was turned into a propaganda spectacular. (A point worthy of attention was the presence of foreigners in large numbers. The play was being filmed.) It was emphasized in particular that the Jewish nation is the greatest and strongest, that all Jews must return to their ancestral land. Furthermore, children were subjected to the greatest pressure."

"On coming out of the synagogue, people were in no hurry to disperse. The nationalistic charge that the play carried was so powerful that it made a young man declare that the synagogue is a tiny fragment of Israel and everything outside its gates is a different world altogether. I don't want to give the impression that I am against religion in general. I saw some sincere believers, war veterans, in the synagogue. In my view, however, true faith and the preaching of nationalism are incompatible." Such is the opinion of S. Volchkov.

It is perfectly obvious that the "Purimspiel," performed on several occasions and not just on the day of Purim, has ideological rather than religious functions. The pretext of promotion of culture and development of amateur art is used to camouflage purposeful nationalistic conditioning of the population and the kindling of the urge to emigrate. It is offensive that the Board of the Marina Roshcha Synagogue, the "Twenty" (as the aktiv of communities is known), does not heed the opinion of true believers who dislike the distortion of the synagogue's functions, but makes its premises available for the propaganda of ideas that are far removed from religion. That is to say, it makes it available to people whose actions discredit the synagogue as a religious institution and also its parishioners themselves. According to A.S. Plekhanov, plenipotentiary of the USSR Council of Ministers Religious Affairs Council for the City of Moscow, this would not have happened if the community Board had been pursuing a more definite line. One could probably agree with this. Nonetheless, perplexity is aroused by the stance taken both by the Plenipotentiary's apparatus and the Kirovskiy Rayispolkom. A warning was sent from there to the Marina Roshcha community that if...the gallery were to collapse during the play, the community's leadership will be held fully responsible, including responsibility under criminal law. It is incomprehensible how such a argument could have been invented (the building was only recently repaired, by the way). These are the kind of "prohibitive measures" eagerly awaited by the "champions of believers' interests," whose desire is to bring religious communities in conflict with representatives of the authorities, to resurrect the abandoned slogan of "oppression of believers' rights in the USSR."

Meanwhile, legislation on religious cults prohibits "the organization of prayer meetings and other assemblies especially for children, teenagers, or women or general Bible study, literary, arts and crafts, labor, religious training, and other assemblies, groups, study circles, and sections, or to organize excursions and children's playgrounds...." It was right there, at the synagogue, after the 3 March show, that an announcement was made about sending children to study the Torah at special summer dachas.

The "producers," who have chosen the confines of the synagogue's walls as the field of their activity, are striving to entice people by any means, even means prohibited by the resolution on struggle against drunkenness and alcoholism. Consequently, one participant in the feast accompanied by abundant libations, which took place in the synagogue 2 March, was detained by the militia, while another one, who got drunk, was treated with greater caution—he was allowed to spend the night at the synagogue. One of them claimed that he had acted in accordance with religious custom, which has it that on Purim people must drink until they cannot tell the difference between the villain Haman and the virtuous Mordecai. Alas, this custom is observed here not only by those who perceive its religious overtones....

We are no specialists in wine drinking, nor experts in toasts as a genre of verbal literature, let alone religious literature. We will therefore refrain from making our own comments. But there is one thing that can be confidently asserted: A religious institution falls within the category of a public place, and the law prohibits the drinking of alcoholic beverages in a public place.

In this case, there is need for comment by the body regulating relations between church and state—the apparatus of the plenipotentiary of the USSR Council of Ministers Religious Affairs Council for the City of Moscow. We are waiting for it.

The last thing we would wish is for these remarks to be perceived as an attempt to interfere in the affairs of an independent religious community or to infringe the freedom of performance of religious rites in accordance with religious traditions, or the believers' rights. But it would be incorrect to close our eyes before the alarming phenomena which have been revealed and which have nothing on common with the freedom of religion. These days there can be no zones closed to glasnost. Including "zones" like the synagogue in Marina Roshcha.

Journalist Attacks GLASNOST Publication

LD311733 Moscow in Portuguese to Portugal 2000 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded comments by Viktor Gribachev in Russian with superimposed Portuguese translation]

[Excerpts] In the last 2 years the Western press has written a lot about glasnost—openness—in the USSR. It should be noted that the journalists wrote not only about the glasnost policy in Soviet society but also about GLASNOST—in other words, a publication by so-called dissident circles led by one Sergey Grigoryants, who used the in word glasnost on the cover. Today we have decided to let our listeners know the opinion of Moscow journalist Viktor Gribachev on this publication. Viktor is the head of one of the sections of the magazine ZHURNALIST, the organ of the Soviet Journalists' Union.

The first question we asked was: What does GLASNOST write about?

"It writes mainly about human rights. It should be noted that the writers of GLASNOST present the problem of human rights in a very original way. From what I understand, the main thing for them is not seriously examining any particular question, but to enter into conflict with views accepted in Soviet society and to enter into conflict with the authorities. In my view, the GLASNOST publication in its present form is an attempt to challenge real glasnost—the glasnost policy under way in the USSR. As to what this publication writes about, it frequently tries to aggravate national problems. For example, it condemns the Soviet Government's unwillingness to meet the legitimate demands of the Crimean Tatars precisely when the special commission of the Supreme Soviet is examining this issue.

"[Words indistinct] one of the GLASNOST writers demands changes which suit them be carried out in the Soviet press. And so on. They only put forward demands and nothing else. Well, I ask, in whose name? The GLASNOST publication does not represent an organization of people, a voluntary association. The articles published in it do not reflect the positions of a group of the country's population. It would be wrong to think that any subjects banned in the Soviet press are discussed in the publication. While not representing any organization in the USSR, GLASNOST has, however, found an organization of followers in the United States quite quickly. There, a Center for Democracy has taken over distribution of the publication in the West. The National Endowment for Democracy set up by the U.S. Congress has given the Center for Democracy funds for the translation and distribution of GLASNOST. Thus, it is assured both moral and financial support in the West."

And what can be said about the legality of the publication and its distribution in the USSR?

"The Editorial Council of GLASNOST does not highly esteem Soviet legislation and proposes to show us the West's achievements in this area. Well, let us see if GLASNOST could survive in Western democracy for at least 1 month.

"Paragraph 2,385 of the U.S. Constitution—I should like to quote one of its points in its entirety: If a person prints, corrects, edits, sells, distributes, and publicly divulges printed or written material which advocates and disseminates the obligation, the need, or desirable and just nature of bringing down or eliminating the Government of the United States, it will be punishable as follows: a fine of up to $20,000 and up to 20 years' imprisonment, or both. Everything is clear, because in this case Washington is urging socialist countries to give up legal defense against those who threaten socialist society and the socialist state."

Thus, Viktor Gribachev from the Soviet magazine ZHURNALIST thinks that a publication like GLASNOST could simply not be published in the United States. But perhaps Europe may be freer in this respect.

"[Passage omitted] I do not know why the politicians and journalists who speak for human rights in the USSR prefer not to cite the laws of their own countries when they urge a change in the laws of another sovereign state."

Thus, it seems unlikely that Western democracy would suit Sergey Grigoryants, who edits GLASNOST in Moscow. Neither would the international legal norms, including the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final act, suit

him and the other writers of his publication for the simple reason that these documents do not proclaim monitoring of the observance of human rights on a supra-national basis. The international accords say that the promotion, defense, and establishment of human rights and fundamental freedoms are assumed by the state. It seems that the writers of GLASNOST who constantly cite the Helsinki Act and the UN charter do not know these documents well. [passage omitted]

Zaslavskaya on Role of Opinion Research Center

PM210931 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Mar 88 Second Edition p 4

[Interview with Academician T.I. Zaslavskaya, director of the All-Union Center for the Study of Public Opinion on Socioeconomic Questions, by unnamed PRAVDA correspondent: "What Does the Population Think? Academician T.I. Zaslavskaya, Director of the Recently Established Center, Reflects on the Problems of Studying Public Opinion"; date and place not given—first paragraph is PRAVDA introduction]

[Text] An All-Union Center for the Study of Public Opinion on Socioeconomic Questions [VTSIOM] has been established in our country under the AUCCTU and the USSR State Committee for Labor and Social Problems. Academician T.I. Zaslavskaya has been appointed its director and, at a PRAVDA correspondent's request, she speaks of the way the new center's work will be organized.

[Correspondent] Why was it necessary to open the center? Are we not blindly following in the footsteps of fashion? Is it all that important to know what various people, including laymen, think on a certain issue before decisions are made?

[Zaslavskaya] Reliable two-way contacts with the population are necessary for the normal functioning of the state, the national economy, and the consumer services sphere, and for the correct solution of many topical questions of political and social life. This is, of course, no revelation. In his works dating from the early twenties V.I. Lenin called on party organs and organs of state power to study and have a clear idea of the views, moods, and interests of the broad masses of working people. Primarily of the classes, strata, and population groups which could be affected by the administrative decisions being worked on. This may sound somewhat stilted, but we really must have our finger on the pulse of public opinion in the course of the restructuring now being implemented in our country.

[Correspondent] But let us try and give a specific definition: What is public opinion? Some old woman waiting in a line says: "Don't expect any pension increases." Is this public opinion?

[Zaslavskaya] No. In such a case we are dealing with a wild rumor. As for public opinion—to use the language of science with which I am familiar—it is the complex of views, judgments, and emotions of people within certain collectives, groups, and local communities regarding the most important events or problems of political, economic, and spiritual life.

Let me point this out again: Public opinion has an emotional nature. It emerges spontaneously and it can be regulated to a certain extent. It is well known that collective opinion can have a positive effect on administrative decisions. It is extremely useful to have information on the opinion of the people's masses in order to avoid mistakes and choose the most sensible method for dealing with problems that emerge. Consideration of the viewpoint of the people's masses offers administrative organs a better guarantee that they will select the most rational way for decisionmaking. It also reduces the risk of a negative reaction on the part of the population.

[Correspondent] How is it possible, in a large country like ours, to identify the sum total of viewpoints on various problems? Furthermore, how are various administrative decisions to be made if the opinions of members of the population differ?

[Zaslavskaya] We should not be afraid of such a situation. In taking polls we are not pursuing the goal of achieving unanimity or, as some people also say, homogeneity of public opinion. Our task is to objectively define opinions. And it is up to the relevant administrative organizations to take these opinions into account when making decisions.

[Correspondent] Who will be the main client of the VTSIOM? And incidentally, why was it set up under the AUCCTU and the USSR State Committee for Labor and Social Problems rather than under the USSR Academy of Sciences?

[Zaslavskaya] The center's task is specific: to study the population's opinion on socioeconomic questions affecting the situation of different population groups. The objective of these studies, as I have already pointed out, is to give the most accurate guidance possible to organizations on which decisionmaking depends. Let us assume that a new law on pensions is being drafted or decisions are being elaborated on substantial changes in wages or improvements in the social infrastructure or the services sphere. The entire package of questions affecting man is decided in advance by the State Committee on Labor and Social Problems on behalf of the state, while the interests of the population, its working members, and trade union members are represented by the AUCCTU. This is why they are the main clients of the VTSIOM and the main consumers of the data it supplies.

It is well known that the main distinguishing feature of academic institutions is fundamental, and therefore lengthy, research. But the main demand made of the

VTSIOM involves regular study and swift results. It is not simply a scientific center, but a kind of factory. It is important to know what people think right now, not what they thought 2-3 years ago.

[Correspondent] To what extent will information on the VTSIOM's work be openly available?

[Zaslavskaya] Keeping the population most widely informed of the results of public opinion studies is the point of departure of the center's activity. Reports on all its studies should be passed on to newspaper, television, and radio broadcasting. There are plans to publish a monthly bulletin and it is hoped to publish a quarterly journal provisionally titled MNENIYA [OPINIONS].

Our center plans to organize in the very near future a joint press conference with the leadership of the AUCCTU and the State Committee for Labor and Social Problems. Journalists will be briefed on the VTSIOM's plans, informed of poll methodology, and told about the center's structure and its regional network.

[Correspondent] How will the VTSIOM's work be specifically organized?

[Zaslavskaya] The center will have a basic nucleus (it is taking shape right now) located in Moscow. It will consist of the most prominent sociologists, programmers, computer specialists, journalists.... In addition, work is now under way to establish 25 VTSIOM branches located in all republic capitals and a number of major industrial centers. The VTSIOM will employ a total of 180 people.

[Correspondent] What "output" will the center produce?

[Zaslavskaya] It is planned to conduct 10-12 unionwide polls of the population each year. Their subjects? The most topical socioeconomic problems of the moment. Prices, for example, or various aspects of the activity of labor collective councils as regards state acceptance, labor remuneration problems in the conditions of economic accountability [khozraschet], new pension legislation. I would describe the VTSIOM's general area of interest and, probably, the main objective of its activity as the lubrication [obsluzhivaniye] of restructuring. It is no accident that as we shape our plans at this time, we are predicating poll topics on a desire to define attitudes toward the fate of so-called restructuring decisions. After all, figuratively speaking, the distance between the Kremlin and a distant population center is vast not only in kilometers but also in terms of the numbers of links in the administrative chain. Decisions made at the top could be based on one set of ideas, but will they remain unchanged by the time they reach the people who will actually have to carry them out? How sensible do people think these decisions are, have things ultimately improved or deteriorated after they have been made—this question can be answered only by the broad masses.

[Correspondent] You are talking about unionwide polls. In what language will they be conducted?

[Zaslavskaya] You have touched one of our sensitive spots. The study of public opinion is justified only if the reliability of the data obtained can be guaranteed. And here we come up against the problem of translating questionnaires. The union republics alone have 15 main languages, with a total of 100 different languages being spoken on our country's territory. Who will translate people's replies during a poll? The interviewer? Is he sufficiently fluent in the language? Briefly speaking, this is a hitherto unsolved problem. To start with, we will have to conduct polls in the Russian language.

[Correspondent] What is the objective of specialized studies?

[Zaslavskaya] Public opinion is such a complex phenomenon that specialized studies of a methodological nature are necessary to understand it. For example, how reliable is man's memory—how accurately and in what detail can he recall what happened to him on a given day last year, last month, or even last week? Once this is known, you can define what questions can or cannot be sensibly asked of someone and determine when he is speaking on the basis of facts and when he is fantasizing.

Take the question of intentions, for example. Some people hold that public opinion somehow precedes action and predetermines behavior. Someone might be asked in a poll: How do you intend to act in a specific situation? To what extent can people's replies be relied upon? For example, there is a widespread practice in the West of conducting polls on consumer demand. And the production of mass batches of goods often depends on the response by purchasers. Can you imagine how important the accuracy of the response is? Briefly speaking, a knowledge and understanding of the various psychological nuances arising in the course of a poll are essential. The better we learn to study the phenomenon of public opinion itself, the more accurate poll-based forecasts of people's probable behavior will be.

[Correspondent] As far as I can make out, we are talking about the characteristics of those being polled. And what demands are made of those who are actually conducting the poll?

[Zaslavskaya] The interviewers, you mean? They are by no means purely mechanical figures. The psychological type of the interviewer has a most direct effect on the study of public opinion. Imagine, for example, a poll of 2,000 young people conducted by their contemporaries as interviewers. And a similar poll of that same category, but this time conducted by adults. The poll results could prove to be substantially different.

To put it briefly, it transpires that by no means everyone is suitable as an interviewer. Ideally, an interviewer must be as neutral as possible. At the same time, he has to meet high professional demands.

[Correspondent] A few words about the VTSIOM's technical base.

[Zaslavskaya] We have fallen seriously behind other countries in the study of public opinion. In order to catch up as soon as possible, our center is being set up on an advanced technical basis. Modern equipment is currently being acquired. Moreover, this equipment will be supplied not only to the Moscow center itself but also to all departments which are likely to engage in primary data processing. Once this data has been recorded on magnetic disks, it will be transmitted to the VTSIOM's main computer over telephone lines (at night).

[Correspondent] And one last question, Tatyana Ivanovna. When will the VTSIOM start polling?

[Zaslavskaya] The first poll is due to get under way soon. Its topic is: "Problems of the electability of economic leaders in the system of production self-management."

Television Creates 'International Affairs Desk'

LD062214 Moscow TASS in English 2010 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 6 TASS—One of the main tasks of Soviet television is to show to Soviet people an objective picture of present-day international life, a senior Soviet Television official said in a television programme today.

Vladimir Popov, deputy chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Television and Radio (Gosteleradio), announced the creation of an international affairs desk at the committee.

Its programmes will explain Soviet foreign policies and analyse topical international problems.

"We are ready for argumentative discussions with our political and ideological opponents abroad," Popov said.

The head of the new desk, Eduard Sorokin, admitted that in the recent past Soviet journalists specialising in international affairs had sometimes passed over in silence some acute or disputable situations, thus creating "vacuum" in the air which often was filled with ill-wishing voices of Western radio stations and television companies.

The situation now is changing—and radically. There are no longer "closed" subjects at Soviet Television. As there are no places from where it would be "prohibited" to conduct broadcasts.

Soviet Television intends to widely practice television hookups via outer space that would connect audiences in the Soviet Union and other countries.

The desk will more often invite well known Soviet political news analysts and prominent foreign scientists, public figures and journalists holding alternative views.

"I hope that television interviews with such distinguished guests as Margaret Thatcher and George Shultz will be a common thing rather than exceptions," Sorokin said.

TASS Reviews New Soviet Sociopolitical Weekly

LD021234 Moscow TASS in English 1123 GMT 2 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 2 TASS—The first issue of "ECHO OF THE PLANET", a new social and political illustrated weekly, has come out today. The magazine is published jointly by TASS and the Union of Journalists of the USSR. The weekly will give coverage to topical developments in international life, striving for a broad view in terms of geography and problematique. The chief contributors to the "ECHO OF THE PLANET" are TASS correspondents accredited in a hundred and twenty-five countries. Other writers for the magazine will also include international-affairs journalists from other both Soviet and foreign mass media, prominent political and public figures, scientists and cultural workers. Although published under a TASS aegis, the magazine is not necessarily the reflection of the official point of view.

In the first issue the reader will find a conversation between a Soviet and a Yugoslav journalist about the results of Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Yugoslavia, a report of TASS correspondents from Washington about the hearings in U.S. Senate committees on the INF Treaty, and an interview with Egon Bahr, a prominent West-German politician. Under an "As It Became Known" heading the TASS correspondent in Beijing describes the political fate of China's former defence minister Lin Piao, who during the "Cultural Revolution" became Mao Zedong's right-hand man but was subsequently defeated in the struggle for power.

The coloured-cover magazine of 48 pages has a supplementary sheet and contains a lot of photographs. It is the first Soviet publication released fully on the basis of electronic technology. The layout and other operations are carried out by a photocomposing computer system.

Economic

Voronin on Repeal of Outmoded Economic Statutes

PM051545 Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 12, Mar 88 (Signed to Press 17 Mar 88) p 4

[Unattributed interview with L.A. Voronin, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, under the rubric "The Economy and the Law": "Deemed To Be No Longer in Force"; date and place of interview not given—first three paragraphs are EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA introduction]

[Text] More than 1,200 previously adopted government resolutions and approximately 7,500 similar acts in union republics have either been deemed to be no longer in force or have been amended. More than 33,000 instructions, regulations, rules, and other normative documents issued by USSR ministries and departments and more than 80,000 issued by republican ministries and departments have been repealed.

These are the results of the first stage of work on the review of economic legislation in view of the adoption of the USSR Law on the State Enterprise (Association) and other decisions with regard to the restructuring of economic management.

L.A. Voronin, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the commission set up by the USSR Council of Ministers to organize this work, has given an interview to EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA.

[Voronin] The creation of the necessary organizational and legal conditions for effective application of the Law on the State Enterprise is a primary task in the overall system of measures to secure a fundamental restructuring of economic management. Believing this to be of great importance, the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers decided to set up a government commission to organize this work. The commission focused its attention on three main spheres:

—Timely preparation of the new normative documents required for the prompt entry into force of the Law on the State Enterprise and the implementation of other measures linked with the implementation of radical economic reform;

—Preparation of proposals for a review of current economic legislation—USSR laws, CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers resolutions, and USSR government decisions;

—Repeal and amendment of departmental normative acts contradicting the Law on the State Enterprise and the principles of the new economic mechanism.

First and foremost, it was necessary to lift all unjustified restrictions on the rights of enterprises, to guarantee their independence in the solution of economic questions, and to abolish norms which fettered the initiative of both economic leaders and labor collectives. This task proved to be quite complex. Many thousands of normative acts literally enmeshing enterprises' economic activity had accumulated over the decades. All USSR ministries and departments without exception are involved in "cleansing" economic legislation of everything outdated, superfluous, and at times simply contradictory. Every ministry or department has set up its own commission. Work along the same lines has been organized in union republics.

Proceeding from the principles and demands of the Law on the State Enterprise, we have lifted rigid regulations and curbs on the rights of enterprises in the sphere of planning their production and economic activity and the utilization of their material resources. Acts which authorize the expropriation of surplus circulating capital, free residual profit, and depreciation reserves have been deemed to be no longer in force for enterprises which have switched to full economic accountability and self-financing.

Amendments have been made to the USSR and union republic Fundamentals of Law on Labor and other legislative acts. We have accepted proposals, drafted by the USSR State Committee for Labor and Social Problems and the AUCCTU, on lifting restrictions on enterprises' rights to determine conditions for workers' labor remuneration and bonus payments and have repealed resolutions envisaging the approval of enterprises' standard establishment and organizational structure by their superior organs. Unnecessary regulation of the use of material incentive funds has been eliminated. Accounting and accountability have been simplified.

[EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA] All this applies to legislative acts and government decisions. It is well known, however, that the overwhelming bulk of normative documents regulating the activity of enterprises was issued by ministries and departments. What is being done about them?

[Voronin] Indeed, the lion's share of normative acts regulating almost every single step in an enterprise's activity was issued by ministries and departments. In the course of the work now being done, more than 33,000 instructions, regulations, rules, and other documents issued during the period of rigid regulation of economic activity by USSR ministries and departments, as well as over 80,000 acts issued by republican ministries and departments, have been repealed.

The USSR Gosplan, for example, deemed that more than 600 of the 810 acts in operation as of 1 July 1987 were no longer in force. The USSR State Committee for Labor and Social Problems repealed or amended more than 1,200 resolutions. A large number of departmental acts have been repealed by the USSR Gosstroy, the USSR State Committee for Statistics, the USSR Gosagroprom, the USSR Ministry of Heavy and Transport Machine Building, the USSR Ministry of the Construction Materials Industry, and others.

It is interesting to analyze the number of acts repealed and the number remaining in force in some ministries. The figures are about 1,200 and 120 respectively in the USSR Ministry of Instrument Making, Automation Equipment, and Control Systems, and over 4,000 and 170 respectively in the USSR Ministry of Nonferrous Metallurgy. The repeal of such a large number of normative documents does away with the overregulation of

economic activity, which deprived enterprises of the opportunity to work in the new fashion, and gives them scope to develop independence and initiative.

[EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA] Lev Alekseyevich, what remains to be done?

[Voronin] The USSR Government has instructed USSR ministries and departments, union republic councils of ministers, and our commission to pursue the cleansing of economic legislation, to repeal all resolutions that exist only as a matter of form, to deem any normative acts superseded by later decisions to be no longer in force, and to eliminate any unjustified duplication of norms. This work is now under way. Its result will be to repeal thousands more outdated resolutions and other normative acts, including some issued in the twenties, thirties, and forties.

For example, a resolution on the organization of production and technical specifications of automobiles manufactured almost 50 years ago is still on the list of current legislation. Many unrepealed acts concern the activity of national economic councils and machine and tractor stations, which went out of existence a long time ago. When the cleansing of economic legislation has been completed, enterprises will be able to breathe more easily.

[EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA] And what could you say about tidying up the system of enterprises' corporate liability [imushchestvennaya otvetstvennost] and bringing it in line with the new principles of economic management?

[Voronin] I will touch upon just some aspects. As of 1 September 1987, there were more than 1,200 norms in force providing for the imposition of various fines and forfeits and the application of other sanctions against enterprises. An analysis showed that many of them were economically unjustified and did not conform with the new conditions of enterprises' work when they are transferred to full economic accountability and self-financing. A significant proportion of these sanctions has already been repealed like, for example, enterprises' liability for the independent sale of surplus and unusable material assets.

A fine of between 25 and 100 percent of the cost of any raw and other materials and article sold could previously have been imposed for the sale of material assets without coordination with superior organs or the USSR Gossnab. The total amount of annual fines in the country as a whole amounted to R18-R35 million.

Until quite recently, enterprises could not use at their own discretion any material resources received by them under the plan for a specific purpose. On the basis of USSR Council of Ministers Resolution No 404, dated 4 May 1984, enterprises in breach of the rule had to pay into the budget an amount equal to three times the cost of any resources utilized for other than the specified purpose. This amounted to tens of millions of rubles each year. This regulation has now been abolished.

The USSR Gossnab and the USSR State Board of Arbitration have repealed over 200 norms setting special conditions for the delivery of certain types of output for production and technical purposes and consumer goods and imposing corporate liability on enterprises and organizations.

A number of other decisions have been adopted on this question. Additional proposals for tidying up the system of economic sanctions applied against enterprises and organizations have been submitted to the USSR Council of Ministers. On the whole, their implementation will make it possible to significantly ease the burden of unjustified liability on the part of enterprises in the new conditions of economic management by reducing the number of current sanctions by at least 70 percent.

At the same time, the commission deems it expedient to retain sanctions set by normative documents in respect of gross violations of plan and contract commitments. These include failing to deliver output and commodities, the supply of poor quality or incomplete items, the evasion of payment or delayed payment for output supplied, nonfulfillment of freight shipment plans, and some other violations.

I would like to draw the attention of enterprise leaders to the need to make broader use of the possibilities offered by contracts and to make provisions for liability in the actual contracts. A universal form of liability like the reimbursement of losses must be more widely used.

[EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA] But the repeal of outdated documents and instructions alone is not enough, is it not also necessary to issue new ones, in line with the spirit of changes?

[Voronin] You are correct. In parallel with the review of previously adopted legislative and other normative acts, new ones are being drafted. In this context I could mention the newly passed Statute on the State Production Association. The USSR Gossnab and State Arbitration Board, with the participation of USSR ministries and departments, prepared drafts of new regulations governing the supply of output for production and technical purposes and consumer goods. They focus attention mainly on economic methods of management and the development of wholesale trade in output for production and technical purposes, direct ties between producers and consumers, and progressive forms of supply. The USSR State Committee for Prices drafted proposals for a system for state monitoring of compliance with price discipline in the USSR. For their part, the Ministry of Finance, the USSR Gosbank, other

central economic organs, and ministries and departments have published new departmental and interdepartmental normative documents to meet the demands of the Law on the State Enterprise. There are, of course, far fewer of them than there were of the repealed ones.

It can thus be said that, on the whole, the legal foundations of enterprises' work in the new conditions of economic management have been laid.

[EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA] The main condition for guaranteeing enterprises' economic accountability rights and legitimate interests is the imposition of strict monitoring of the legality of acts newly issued by ministries and departments and the sharp reduction of departmental "norm setting." But several ministries have already issued documents which clearly do not conform with the Law on the State Enterprise. Is it right that while some "inappropriate" acts are being repealed, others should appear? How are such phenomena to be prevented?

[Voronin] Yes, there have been such cases. The commission elaborated a draft resolution "On Improving the Procedure for Drafting and Publishing Departmental Normative Acts" in order to step up monitoring of the legality and justification of acts issued by ministries and departments and to prevent a new wave of departmental "norm setting." This resolution makes provision for personal responsibility by leaders of ministries and departments for any unjustified trivial regulation of enterprises' economic activity or for violations or restrictions of their rights.

The questions of the expediency of introducing state registration of generally binding departmental normative acts with the USSR Ministry of Justice is under discussion. Any acts which prove to be not in conformity with the USSR Law on the State Enterprise will be inoperative.

[EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA] Could it be said, therefore, that enterprise leaders can no longer complain about economic legislation? Have all problems been resolved?

[Voronin] Far from it. This work has not yet been completed by all ministries and departments. One of the very serious questions is that of organizing the review of normative documents not only at the top levels of economic leadership but also at enterprises themselves. Inspections have shown that there are many shortcomings in this respect within the systems of the USSR Ministry of Light Industry, the USSR Ministry of Communications, a number of construction ministries and gosstroys in union republics, and some other sectors. Questions concerning the stepping up of the economic liability of transport and energy supply organizations for nonfulfillment of their commitments have not yet been resolved.

It is a task of paramount importance to promptly supply all enterprises with sets of current normative documents and ensure that they have up-to-date information on new decisions and the introduction of amendments to or the repeal of both government and departmental normative acts. Much still remains to be done here by ministries and departments, including the USSR Ministry of the Automotive Industry, the USSR Gosagroprom, and a number of others. Unless order is imposed, it will be difficult to talk seriously about strengthening legality, boosting legal standards in economic activity, and ensuring guaranteed democratic foundations of economic management. These questions have been raised by the commission with all USSR ministries and departments and union republic councils of ministers. In short, we still have problems, but I believe that they will be solved in the near future.

Shalayev, Latsis Discuss Price Reforms

PM241701 [Editorial Report] Copenhagen DET FRI AKTUELT in Danish on 15 March 1988 publishes on pages 20 and 21 a 1,000-word article by editor Jorgen Flindt Pedersen, who recently visited Moscow together with Danish Social Democratic Party leader Svend Auken. The article is a general review of "perestroyka" in the USSR and contains comments by KOMMUNIST editor Oto Latsis and AUCCTU chairman Stepan Shalayev.

Latsis begins by admitting that the black economy in the Soviet Union "is bigger than the legal economy in certain branches of industry. This applies in particular to the service industries." Latsis stresses the importance of retail price reforms, but concedes that it is difficult to sell to the Soviet people the price rises that such reforms will entail. However, this is a task that must be solved in a democratic manner, he says, and not by decree, as in the past. Latsis also asserts that "we have long mistaken dreams for reality. We have believed our own propaganda for too long." Enterprises must now meet the real needs of customers, and wages must be determined by profitability, with improved rewards for those who work hard. Latsis points to the large number of readers' letters to KOMMUNIST and other periodicals supporting perestroyka. There are few, he says, who warn against the reforms: "Conservative critics are simply too loyal to authority to attack the highest party leadership."

Shalayev describes price reforms as totally necessary, but asserts that those on low incomes and those with families must receive compensation. "The working class must not lose out," he says. He also gives an example of the new democratic reforms at enterprises. After approaching Shalayev for assistance, he relates, the workers at a Siberian machine factory fired their bosses and reorganized production with financial support organized by Shalayev.

Deputy Railway Minister on BAM Problems

OW070357 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Video report by Leonid Elin from the "120 Minutes" program]

[Text] A press conference has been held in the Ministry of Railways devoted to problems of development of the Baykal-Amur Main Railroad (BAM). As you probably know, the first test train traveled over the line in October 1984, but, to date, the BAM has been operating inefficiently, and many questions relating to the infrastructure remain unsolved. Our colleague, Leonid Elin, who for many years has been reporting on issues relating to BAM construction, took part in the press conference. Let us hear what he has to say:

[Begin recording] [Elin] (?This) year, traffic should begin along the entire route, totalling 3,095 km, whereas currently only some 2,150 km is open to permanent traffic. Bypass tunnels through the Severo-Muyskiy Range are still being built and without them it is impossible to haul freight economically along the railroad. This was outlined by Comrade Isingarin, deputy minister of railways.

Many social issues have also not been solved. Hence, 6 of every 10 BAM construction workers is in need of housing. According to the original plans, after all, housing and social facilities were planned only for the railway workers. Only 12 of 46 settlements on the railroad have been fully commissioned. To eliminate the shortcomings of the previous project in the sphere of commissioning housing, shops, schools, and public centers, hundreds of millions of additional rubles will be needed. Of course, it is also important to see the BAM working for the country and more rapidly paying off the expenditure used in its construction. [video shows Elin at the meeting addressing the deputy railways ministers] What will the railway workers be transporting; what volumes?

[N.K. Isingarin, identified by screen caption] The BAM will haul freight for the South Yakutsk Territorial Industrial Complex, freight that, due to its region of origin, is more economical to haul over the BAM railroad, and freight to take the pressure off the Trans-Siberian Railroad.

There is another point. Currently, the Berkakit-Tommot railway line is being built. Despite all the problems of this project, we support construction of the Berkakit-Tommot line. Even when it is commissioned for interim operations, freight will immediately begin to flow over the western section of the BAM. In other words, the western section and eastern BAM will receive freight traffic, but not to the extent we would like to see. Naturally, we would like to see the development of industry in the BAM zone itself. This will accelerate the returns. Industry must support us with its flow of freight. [video cuts from the meeting to show the map of the BAM route]

[Elin] Now it is essential to have more rapid development of the entire zone along the BAM. Only then will the railroad become profitable. [end recording]

Scientific

Shatalov Interviewed on Space Shuttle Testing

LD062250 Moscow World Service in English 2010 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Report on interview with Vladimir Shatalov, chief of the Cosmonauts' Training Center, by Radio Moscow reporter Sergey Vorobyev; date and place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The USSR is going to launch a space shuttle shortly. Radio Moscow's reporter Sergey Vorobyev has asked the chief of the Cosmonauts' Training Center, Vladimir Shatalov, to say a few words about this new space technology. We now bring you an account of the interview:

Comprehensive tests and adjustments are underway. Both the booster rocket and the space shuttle itself are being tested. This work has been rather successful. Taking part in it are test pilots Igor Volk and Anatoliy Levchenko, who have a good record of flights aboard spacecraft of the Soyuz series. The new technology has good characteristics and can land either in the manual or (?in the) automatic mode. In the future, a similar system is likely to be introduced on passenger liners which would improve their capabilities dramatically and make landing possible in any weather.

Does the Soviet space shuttle have any distinguished features? In what way is it different from its American counterpart? A question to Vladimir Shatalov: The Soviet space shuttle will be different in several respects. It's only natural that each country chooses its own way. The booster rocket and the space shuttle are being developed separately. American space shuttles are integral parts of the whole system. They cannot be divided into a booster rocket and a spacecraft. The American space shuttles are equipped with boosters working on fuel from a suspended tank. The Soviet space shuttle is dramatically different in this respect. We are developing the booster rocket and the spacecraft separately. Why? The reason is that we have far-reaching plans. We need a powerful booster rocket capable of lifting a payload of up to 100 tons to build orbital stations of (?the) new generation, to put in space sophisticated probes to study the Moon and to explore Mars.

So far the Soviet Union has built a new booster rocket called Energiya, energy, capable of putting space shuttles in space. The Soviet system will be in the same class with the American ones. Spacecraft have many common features, just as aircraft or motor vehicles which look very much alike. The Soviet space shuttle will carry about the same payload—29 and 1/2 tonnes is the maximum. American shuttles carry crews consisting of

seven astronauts. The Soviet shuttle will be able to take aboard as many researchers, and more if need be. The Soviet Union has for years used a system of disposable spacecraft to deliver cosmonauts and cargoes to orbital stations. This system has proved reliable.

Will the new system match the one being used now?

Vladimir Shatalov replied: Certainly. All space systems will be adjustable. Take the Mir orbiting station and its add-on modules. All of the sophisticated space technologies being developed now, including reusable ones, will be able to dock with them.

That was an interview with the chief of the Soviet space training center, Vladimir Shatalov.

Shcherbitskiy Attends Ukrainian Science Meeting

AU051418 Kiev RADYANSKA UKRAINA in Ukrainian 31 Mar 88 pp 1-2

[RATAU report: "Energetically Restructuring Science, Increasing Its Practical Returns: A General Meeting of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The results of the work performed by the Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences in 1987 and the main guidelines for restructuring the activity of scientific institutions in light of the decisions of the 27th party congress and the successive CPSU Central Committee plenums were discussed at a session of the general meeting of the republic's Academy of Sciences.

Participating in the proceedings were: V.V. Shcherbitskiy, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee first secretary; Yu.N. Yelchenko, V.A. Masol, S.I. Gurenko, and K.I. Masik, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo members and candidate members; V.G. Urchukin and V.P. Fokin, Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers deputy chairmen; G.I. Revenko, Kiev Obkom first secretary; F.M. Rudich, chief of the Science and Educational Institutions Department in the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee; and A.A. Makhorin, instructor in the Science and Educational Institutions Department of the CPSU Central Committee.

Academician B.Ye. Paton, president of the republic's Academy of Sciences, delivered an accountability report.

The meeting was addressed by V.A. Masol, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member and Council of Ministers chairman. [passage omitted]

Shcherbina Attends Function Marking Geology Day

PM061225 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Apr 88 Second Edition p 2

[TASS report: "To Mark the Holiday"]

[Text] A festive meeting to mark Geology Day was held in Moscow on 1 April. The presidium consisted of B.Ye. Shcherbina, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; I.P. Yastrebov, chief of a CPSU Central Committee department; leaders of a number of ministries and departments; production front-rankers; scientists; and representatives of the capital's public.

A report was read by USSR Minister of Geology Ye.A. Kozlovskiy.

Military

Defense Minister Yazov Visits Northern Fleet

PM070827 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Apr 88 Second Edition p 1

[Report by correspondent Captain 3d Rank P. Ishchenko: "To Deepen Restructuring"]

[Text] To strive day by day for real progress in improving the quality of combat and political training, asserting regulation order, and enhancing the combat readiness of subunits, units, and ships—this is the chief purpose of the restructuring taking place in the Armed Forces and of the strenuous work on implementing the 27th CPSU Congress decisions. Its success is achieved through specific deeds and through selfless labor by military cadres and all Army and Navy personnel. Army General D.T. Yazov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of defense, concentrated attention on this during a visit to the Northern Fleet on 1-3 April.

The defense minister met with the fleet's leading personnel, visited a number of garrisons, and familiarized himself with the course of the Northern Fleet servicemen's combat training and service and with their life and routine. He chatted with the crews of the nuclear-powered submarines on which officers V. Mamonov and A. Khudyakov serve. These crews, in which servicemen of many nationalities serve, have repeatedly been involved in combat service [boyevaya sluzhba] at sea and have successfully resolved the responsible tasks set them. Army General D.T. Yazov called collectivism, comradeship, and strong fleet friendship one of the chief conditions for further improving naval training and enhancing combat readiness.

Army General D.T. Yazov went on board the modern nuclear-powered submarines commanded by Captain 1st Rank A. Yakovlev and Captain 1st Rank Yu. Kolatyuk and other warships. At battle stations and in crew quarters and cabins, the defense minister talked with seamen, petty officers, warrant officers, and officers. He

inquired about their service and routine, the organization of leisure time, correspondence with relatives and friends, and the maintenance of ties with the labor collectives the sailors had left to serve in the fleet. The defense minister wished the sailors successes in mastering the latest hardware, accident-free voyages, and vigilant combat service and made an entry in the honored visitors' book.

The defense minister had meetings with sailors and family members of servicemen of a number of garrisons. He conveyed to the Northern Fleet servicemen warm greetings and best wishes from M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. Army General D.T. Yazov spoke in detail about the contemporary international situation, about the struggle of the USSR and its allies to ease tension and preserve and strengthen peace, and about the course of restructuring in our country. He also answered numerous questions.

The defense minister visited barracks, mess halls, stores, and other sociocultural and consumer projects and had meetings and talks in the streets with garrison residents. Army General D.T. Yazov familiarized himself with a training center and was present at a training session for a ship's combat crew headed by Captain 1st Rank O. Rzhanov. He also visited a fleet ship-repair enterprise and chatted with workers and engineering and technical personnel. The talks centered on questions of increasing labor productivity, improving the organization of work, and introducing the achievements of scientific and technical progress and other enterprises' progressive experience. Attention was drawn to the importance of ensuring the high quality of ship repairs and reducing repair times.

During his visit to the fleet, the defense minister noted certain progress in improving the organization of the instruction and educational process, in providing military camps with services and amenities, and in resolving sociocultural and consumer problems. At the same time, the need was emphasized for more concrete and vigorous work on eradicating the shortcomings and omissions which prevent the attainment of higher and more stable results in combat training and service. Many shortcomings are associated with certain leaders' vague and approximate notion of the true state of affairs in the sector entrusted to them, with a number of officials' poor knowledge of their functional duties and of the requirements of general military regulations, and with inefficiency. It was pointed out that a decisive shift has still not been made toward the people themselves and toward specific, living aspects in daily organizational and political education work.

The defense minister set tasks of further improving combat readiness, strengthening organization and discipline, and instilling strict regulation order everywhere. The indefatigable mastering of weapons and combat hardware and enhancement of the personnel's military skill are of paramount significance. The democratization of military life and development of healthy, businesslike criticism and self-criticism are an effective means of resolving tasks facing the fleet. The beneficial processes of restructuring must be deepened within the framework of our military regulations, whose requirements express the true democratism of the socialist military organization. It is important persistently to enhance the effectiveness of work on the personnel's patriotic and international education.

During the meetings with the defense minister, the Northern Fleet sailors expressed unanimous approval for the party line of restructuring and for the Soviet state's peace initiatives and their determination to implement the guidelines of the 27th party congress and of the subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums and worthily greet the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference.

During the defense minister's visit to the Northern Fleet, he was accompanied by Fleet Admiral V.N. Chernavin, commander in chief of the Navy.

Shcherbitskiy Attends Defense Council Session

AU050927 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 29 Mar 88 p 1

[RATAU report: "Preparing Reliable Defenders for the Homeland"]

[Text] Questions concerning young men's preparation for military service were thoroughly examined at a session of the Military Council of Kiev Red Banner Order-Decorated Military District on 28 March. Participating in the session were a number of obkom secretaries, oblispolkom deputy chairmen, leaders of the republic's ministries and departments, responsible functionaries of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, Council of Ministers, Komsomol Central Committee, DOSAAF, and military commissariats.

Reports were delivered by Colonel General V.V. Osipov, commander of the district troops, and Lieutenant General V.A. Sharygin, member of the district Military Council and chief of the Political Directorate.

It was noted that young troop reinforcements from the republic's oblasts were at present for the most part well prepared. This is a result of the great work carried out by organs of public and vocational-technical education, health services, military commissariats, DOSAAF committees, the soviets of people's deputies, party and Komsomol organizations.

At the same time, restructuring still has not properly touched upon work among young people in the predrafting and drafting age. Its quality and effectiveness can and should be significantly better. For this reason, under the conditions of expanding glasnost and democratism, particular emphasis must be put on explaining the essence of political tasks set by the party at the

present stage, on shaping among young people a correct comprehension of the historical path covered by Soviet society, and their readiness to redouble the party and people's revolutionary, combat, and labor traditions. It is essential to coordinate military-patriotic work even closer with the cultivation of the feelings of internationalist and class solidarity and of friendship among our country's peoples, and to make fuller use of examples set by war veterans and internationalist ex-combatants in their lives. It is also important to enhance sponsorship ties linking military units with labor collectives, educational institutions, and DOSAAF schools.

Further improvements are needed in young men's physical preparation for military service. Among other measures, the need was emphasized to create in every town and rayon defense-sports convalescent camps, and to eliminate defects in medical convalescence work among young people, as well as in their basic military training. In this context the need was also noted to increase the role and responsibility of military commissariats.

V.V. Shcherbitskiy, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee first secretary, participated in the proceedings of the Military Council session and delivered a speech.

Officer Discusses Ethnic Problems in Navy

PM061215 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Apr 88 Second Edition p 2

[Interview with Vice Admiral A. Korniyenko, member of the Baltic Fleet Military Council and chief of the Baltic Fleet Political Directorate, with own correspondent Captain 2d Class A. Pilipchuk, under the rubric "Interview on a Topical Subject": "Every Republic in the Crew's Quarters"; date and place not given—first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Excerpts] The KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent's questions were answered by Vice Admiral A. Korniyenko, member of the Baltic Fleet Military Council and chief of the Baltic Fleet Political Directorate. [passage omitted]

[Pilipchuk] As is well known, there have been a number of conflicts in certain parts of the country—including the Baltic republics. Are the problems in the country reflected in naval units and formations?

[Korniyenko] Life itself has refuted the claim about the absence of problems in the nationalities issue that had been trumpeted for decades. Undoubtedly, the excesses that took place in Kazakhstan and the Baltic republics, and the situation prevailing around events in Nagorno-Karabakh could not fail to impinge upon the consciousness and feelings of servicemen.

First and foremost, it must be stressed that naval personnel firmly support the party's Leninist policy on the nationalities question and the concrete measures aimed at strengthening friendship among the peoples of the USSR. Psychologically, people have shown their attitude to what has happened in different ways. For instance, I met with Azerbaijanis and Armenians during the events in Nagorno-Karabakh. Yes, there were people among them who became introverted and formed cliques based on people's home areas, but others frankly spoke out saying that they were ashamed of their countrymen. One can also understand the feelings of those who were worried about their relatives and friends. Sometimes certain facts in their conversations were distorted—like in a trick mirror. All this required that we step up individual work and explain in a well-argued fashion the Leninist nationalities policy and the true causes and consequences of the incidents. Let me also say that during this period, there have been no conflict situations in the Navy on the grounds of nationality.

[Pilipchuk] Does that mean that military collectives have some "magical" immunity to stop the "germs" of nationalism infiltrating their environment?

[Korniyenko] Of course not. The Army and Navy, like the entire country, are multinational in makeup and, as the saying goes, are no strangers to everyday contradictions. I am referring to cases in the Navy when one person insults the national dignity of another—often in crude terms. Behind each such case, one cannot fail to see the fact that among some of the young people coming into the Navy international sentiments have been relaxed in favor of national egoism, and an ethos of good relations between nationalities is lacking. Unfortunately, certain commanders and political workers are inclined to see merely the violation of military discipline, and close their eyes to the real cause underlying what has happened.... [passage omitted]

[Pilipchuk] V.I. Lenin warned that the "organization of ethnic relations is a serious business. We must be exceptionally cautious in this area." I did not recall that phrase by accident. I once saw a young serviceman address his commander in the informal second person singular. The latter considered such behavior from a subordinate to be the height of insolence. He immediately used his disciplinary rights to the full in punishing him. The officer had been over hasty: As was subsequently established by a political worker, the language of the ethnic group to which the soldier belonged lacked a formal second person plural. So he had just made a mistake....

[Korniyenko] True, work in internationalist education and the rallying of a multinational collective is a delicate business. I recall that when I was deputy political commander of a submarine I spent a lot of time looking for books on the customs and traditions of the peoples of the USSR. Even today, incidentally, it is impossible to find them. For instance, in relations with people can we really fail to take account of the fact that representatives of the Caucasian republics may appear to be naturally high-spirited and easy-going, while people from the Baltic may seem restrained and taciturn, and at times even

introverted? Incidentally, I have often taken a close look at sailors from the Baltic republics. As a rule, they are industrious and obliging people accustomed to order and organization. Those from Central Asia are, in the main, brought up to respect their elders. Mountain people are distinguished by their love of weapons.... Educators must know all this if they want to succeed in individual work with people.

[Pilipchuk] As is well known, there are ships in the Navy which bear the names of Komsomol collectives from the union republics. How are things going with respect to military sponsorship work?

[Korniyenko] There are 17 ships in the Baltic Fleet that bear the name of the Komsomol. One of them, the guard ship "Komsomolets Litvy," was recently visited by a delegation headed by S. Gedraytis, secretary of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee, and A. Matsaytis, first secretary of the Lithuanian Komsomol Central Committee. With a view to propagandizing naval service among the republic's young people, Lithuanian television shot a documentary about the ship and its crew. Draftees are assigned to the named ships on Komsomol passes. Most of them justify the trust placed in them.

However, we also encounter instances of people who are by no means among the most worthy being sent to sponsored ships and units. Judge for yourselves: In Donetsk and Polotsk, passes for named ships were not given to Komsomol members, in Minsk they were given to people whose health made them unsuitable for service afloat, and in Gomel they were even given to people who had previously been subject to administrative and criminal proceedings. There were no Komsomol members aboard the minesweeper "Komsomolets Estonii" or the small ASW ship "Komsomolets Bashkirii...."

[Pilipchuk] Take another problem: Certain young sailors have a poor command of Russian. What is being done in this regard?

[Korniyenko] That is a thorny issue. Like all questions of this kind, it is a delicate one. But let us be frank about it. For all of us military people, Russian is primarily the language of the oath and the statutes, of military instructions and commands. In fall 1987 alone, around 300 draftees with a very poor knowledge of Russian (in the Baltic region this is typical of Estonians above all) entered the Navy. In certain units in the Navy's Construction Directorate, the number of such servicemen amounts to 8-9 percent.

We are obviously looking for a way out of this situation. Russian-language circles are being organized and subscriptions arranged to Russian-language republican newspapers (3,000 copies in the Navy in total). Book discussions are held. But all this takes time out of the already extremely busy schedule spent on achieving the main thing—the speediest mastery of military skills. And just what are schools, military commissariats, and local Komsomol organizations doing to resolve this problem? [passage omitted]